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WE BRING GOOD NEWS | DIOCESE OF OXFORD REPORTER IN BERKSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE | JUNE 2000 | No 113

Come Holy Spirit

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock will be the magnificent backdrop for Praise in the Park, a service of celebration and witness on Sunday 11 June. Rehearsing are Pam Lamb and Candy Hadler, members of the Christian Dance Fellowship of Great Britain. This is one of many events across the Oxford Diocese on or around Pentecost Sunday. See pages 10 and 11 for full details. Photograph: Frank Blackwell

All this comes from one village

The place to shop for interiors ◆ On the A44 in Woodstock
Craft made articles for the home ◆ From craftmakers' cooperatives

the Doorpost Information PAGE

One page says it all

Courses, training, festivals, events

- Behind the news page 4
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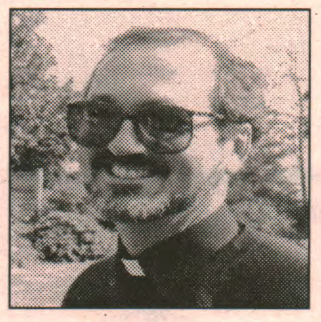
News

Our man in the countryside

For ten years **Glyn Evans** (pictured below) has been strengthening links between the Church and rural society through his work as rural chaplain to the Dorchester Episcopal Area. Here he writes about his additional responsibilities as the Diocese's new **Rural and Regional Officer**

Maintaining and strengthening the links between the Church and rural society, and helping the rural Church to engage with rural issues, will continue to be the main priority of my work. However, in future I will also help, support and widen the work of my fellow rural chaplains in the Buckingham and Reading Episcopal Areas thus working on rural and agricultural concerns across the Oxford Diocese.

My new brief also includes developing Church issues relating to tourism. One of the projects I have in mind is to establish a 'Faith in Tourism Group'. I am also working with some of the parishes mentioned in Simon Jenkins' recent book



England's Thousand Best Churches on their ministry to visitors.

The 'regional' side of the job acknowledges the growing importance of regionalism in this country – currently an economic process, there are signs that the Government plans to establish regional assemblies in England with similar powers to the Welsh Assembly. We shall see! In the meantime my task is to keep the Diocese informed of developments at the South East Region.

We have already established a South East Region rural churches group to look at rural deprivation and how churches response to it across the region. Our first conference is being held in Woking on 15 June with representatives from this Diocese in attendance.

Glyn's address remains the same: The Rectory, Little Compton, Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 0SE Home: 01608 674313 Fax: 01608 674805 Mobile: 0771 8259664
e-mail: glynevans@goldserve.net

Estonian choir to sing in Littlemore

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin and St Nicholas, Littlemore in Oxford will be the venue for a concert by the remarkable St Michael's Boys Choir from Tallinn in Estonia on 15 June at 7pm. Their repertoire spans liturgical and folk music from over a thousand years. Much of the Estonian musical literature was hidden away in museums during the Soviet occupation of Estonia and is now being rediscovered by this choir. Entrance is free but there will be a collection to cover expenses. The concert is jointly organised by the Estonian Embassy and Bernhard Schunemann, Priest in charge of Littlemore. Details 01865 437720.

Adopt a cop?

On 1 June we are asked to join the first National Day of Prayer for the Police Service. Thames Valley Police and the Oxford Diocese are also encouraging churches to pray for those who work in police stations on a more regular basis through a new 'Adopt a Cop' scheme.

Churches who join the scheme commit themselves to adopting in prayer all those who work at their local police station. A co-ordinator from the station, usually a member of the Christian Police Association, will supply information for prayer on a regular basis whether high profile law and order situations or personal needs of individuals.

The idea originated in Brixton where 30 churches now pray for the police service.

Find out more from Police Constable Jon Franklin on 01865 335124.

MU consider ethics of fertilisation

The ethics of human fertilisation was the important subject of a recent discussion at an open meeting of Witney's Mothers' Union.

The evening was organised by the Revd Jeremy Trigg, a member of the Hull IVF Unit advisory panel. Various methods of in vitro fertilisation were explained and small groups worked through some case studies, following the process carried out by the advisory panel.

It was explained that one of the criteria for the use of human fertilisation is 'that a woman shall not be provided with treatment services unless account has been taken of the welfare of any child who may be born as a result of the treatment (including the need of that child for a father) and of any other child affected by the birth'.

'Many questions arose,' says Joan Baron, leader of the Witney Deanery MU, 'particularly when we considered the Gospel values of family life and good parenting – that of love, stability and wider family support.'

Diocesan cricket

The Diocesan cricket team will vigorously defend their 1999 Church Times Cup victory. The first Cup fixture is on 5 June at Wolverhampton when they meet Lichfield Diocese. On 12 June they play Birmingham and on 19 June, Southwell. They also have friendly matches against Bicester and North Oxford on 22 June and against the Church Commissioners on 27 June. The Cup final is on 14 September. For all details: Ed Newell on 01865 208221.

News in brief

A life on the ocean wave

The Missions to Seamen changed its name to The Mission to Seafarers at a service of blessing and rededication in Westminster Abbey in April. The mission is setting aside 9 July as Sea Sunday, a chance for churches to pray for seafarers and their families. Resources are available from Mission to Seafarers, St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, London EC4R 2RL, tel 020 7248 5202.

Fuel for the GM debate

The methods by which our food is produced have been increasingly the subject of ethical and practical discussion. To this is now added the debate over the question of genetic modification of our food sources.

A vital aspect of the debate is the viability or otherwise of non-chemical and unmodified farming methods. In view of this, Applied Rural Alternatives, an independent educational group of Christians, have arranged some guided tours to organic farms, gardens and holdings to give concerned people a chance to see and ask questions. The next visit is to the Hardwick Organic market Garden, near Pangbourne on the afternoon of 10 June.

Booking is essential. Ring David Stafford on 0118 962 7797.

Saints near and far

St Frideswide, patroness of the Oxford Diocese, is one of 25 saints to be represented in flowers at Reading's 'Flower Festival 2000' from 30 June - 2 July. The event, at All Saints' Downshire Square, will draw on the imagination and skills of a number of Reading churches. Greyfriars is responsible for a St George display in the porch. St Peter is being remembered in an arrangement by St Bartholomew's, Arborfield while Grange United Reformed Church will take care of St Frideswide. The weekend of celebration also includes a choral concert and the ordination to the priesthood of Fr Stuart Richards by the Bishop of Reading on Saturday, 1 July.

Ring 0118 957 2000 for details.

Alison springs aboard

To help 'ordinary' people evangelise is the major concern of the Revd Alison White *(right)* from County Durham who has just joined the Springboard team. Springboard, which encourages and mobilises churches of all traditions for evangelism, has an office in Abingdon.

Don't forget you can get The DOOR on audiotape from Graham Winterbourne on 01844 840285

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News

The fight for St Augustine's School continues

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Revd Vincent Nichols, has concluded that St Augustine's Joint Roman Catholic/ Church of England Upper School should become a Catholic Secondary School as part of the reorganisation of Oxford schools currently planned by Oxfordshire County Council.

The Archbishop's decision was announced on 10 May. It is based on the assumption that, on the statistical evidence of the numbers of Catholic baptisms in and outside Oxford, the creation of a Catholic secondary school is justified. The Church of England is doubtful about this conclusion.

The school's head teacher, Elisabeth Gilpin, said she was deeply saddened by the response of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham. 'I believe that the start of a new millennium should be a time for Christians to act together on Christ's last prayer for his followers: May they all be one.'

However, the fight to keep the joint school goes on. The Bishop of Oxford has expressed his appreciation of the time and attention given by Archbishop Nichols to the question. While respecting the integrity of his decision, he has voiced his 'bitter' disappointment at the conclusion and remains committed to the pupils, staff and governors of the school.

The governing body of St Augustine's passed a resolution following Archbishop Nichols' conclusion in which they said: 'Having read the Archbishop's statement, the governing body remains strongly in favour of the continuation of St Augustine's as a joint Roman Catholic and Church of England school in the two- or three-tier system.' They have set up a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Joan Townsend to take this commitment forward.

Speaking to The DOOR, the Oxford Diocesan Director of Education, Canon Tony Williamson, said: 'The Bishop of Oxford and the Diocesan Board of Education remain committed to the continuation of the joint school. It is also my view that Oxfordshire County Councillors do not appear minded to change their view that the school should be retained as a joint school'.

Girl band promotes sport events for poor countries

Shine, an up-and-coming Christian band from Milton Keynes, is helping a national campaign to raise money for children in the world's poorest countries. They took part in the 'Game of Two Halves' tour, organised by Tearfund with Oxford-based Christians in Sport and the youth agency Viz-A-Viz, which encourages young people to put on sponsored sports events. The four singers (*left to right*), Loretta Andrews, Hanne Pettersen, Natasha Andrews and Nicola Rodgers, are shown with youngsters from London during the tour. Last summer about £40,000 was raised through Game of Two Halves. A pack for schools and youth clubs is available from Tearfund: 020 8977 6061; www.go2h.org Photograph: Jim Loring/Tearfund

Talk on same-sex relationships

A 40-minute talk on same-sex relationships has been recorded by the Bishop of Oxford, who is chairman of the House of Bishops' Working Party on Human Sexuality. It outlines the various arguments and sets out the most recent thinking in the Church of England. The talk, written for deanery study groups, is suitable for groups or individuals who want to listen to a fair and careful presentation of this complex and diverse issue. The audio CD is available from Oxford Diocesan Publications Ltd at Diocesan Church House, £4.50 inc. VAT, postage and packing. Send a cheque payable to ODPUBS. The full text of the talk is available free on the Diocesan web site: www.oxford.anglican.org.

Greenbelt's new head

Jude Levermore, a licensed lay minister from Ducklington near Witney in Oxfordshire, is the new chairman of Greenbelt, the annual Christian arts festival. She takes over from Glasgow-based Dot Reid as the festival moves back to the Bank Holiday weekend (25-28 August) on its popular new site at Cheltenham race course.

Mother of three children, Jude is also a school counsellor and a youth worker who trained with Oxford Youth Works. 'As a youth worker, I am particularly pleased that this year we've seen an incredible rise in the number of young people booking in for the festival. For the last 27 years, Greenbelt has been a landmark event in many young people's lives, offering a non-stop weekend of stimulating entertainment, talk and spiritual expression.'

Three years ago Jude Levermore was The DOOR's 'God in the Life of' subject and said: 'I like working with young people - they talk about their faith openly. They haven't read the books, they don't know the 'right' answers, so the answers they give are heartfelt and quite often more God-like.'

Tickets for Greenbelt are available from 0207374 2760 or from the website www.greenbelt.org.uk

Bishop gives support for Rover

The new Rover 75 is a superb car which deserves to sell well here and overseas, said the Bishop of Oxford in the House of Lords on 9 May. Questioning the Government about the future position of workers at the Cowley plant after the Phoenix takeover, he told the Minister, Baron McIntosh of Haringey, that he was concerned that the production of the Rover 75 would be switched from Cowley to Longbridge.

In reply the Minister assured Bishop Richard that the new Mini would be built at Cowley and that there would be no job losses there. The Bishop himself took delivery of a Rover 75 in December 1999.

PACT invests in future of parents and children

Parents and Children Together (The Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work) have been awarded an Investors in People status in recognition of their good working practices, particularly for the way they treat and train their staff. They will receive the award on 12 July.

The news was given by chairman Peter Teague at PACT's annual general meeting at Englefield House near Reading in May. He also announced that PACT would move to larger modern offices in Reading at the end of May. In several ways the year had been a pilgrimage, said PACT's director, Yvette Gayford. Despite having to cope with many changes at government and local authority level, 31 children had been placed in new families in 1999.

Afterwards Peter Wilson, Director of Young Minds, gave the PACT annual lecture on mental health and children. Research, he said, had shown that of 500 children born in 1964 who had had to cope with adverse problems, two out of three had developed mental health problems. Some remained stable against all the odds but we paid little attention to how they coped. It seemed that the most significant factor for them was an unequivocal attachment to one person whom they could trust. Parents needed to be a consistent presence for their child and they needed support from agencies like PACT.

From 31 May PACT's address will be: 7 Southern Court, South Street, Reading RG1 4QS, telephone 0118 938 7600.

behind the Door

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PROVINCIAL EPISCOPAL VISITOR
Vacancy due to the death of the Right Revd Michael Houghton

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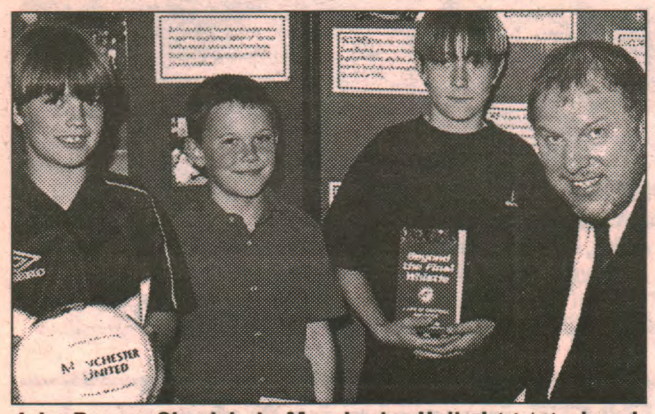
People & places

Asian Christians celebrate

At their largest ever gathering, over 2,000 British Asian Christians came together in Buckinghamshire last month for worship, seminars and other activities. Asia Celebrates 2000, organised by the Alliance of Asian Christians, was held in a marquee in the grounds of the WEC International headquarters at Bulstrode Park, Gerrards Cross. Prayers were said in Urdu, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and English especially for churches in Asian countries where Christians are persecuted. Those present included London mayoral candidate Raj Gidoomal, rap musican Raj Kaul and Christian songwriter Subhash Gill. Also there was *The Times* correspondent Ruth Gledhill, who included the event in her regular 'Five-star guide' to services. The delicious supper afterwards was given a maximum of five stars.



John Boyers, Chaplain to Manchester United (right), **signed copies of his book** Beyond the Final Whistle **at Hazlemere Church last month. He brought along a team football, and talked to adults and young people about his work.**

Photograph: Keith Ellis

Diocesan Appointments

The Revd Ian Adams, Curate Thame Valley Team Ministry, to be Team Vicar; **the Revd Philip Ball**, Team Rector Bicester, to be Rural Dean Bicester and Islip; **the Revd Dee Castle**, NSM St George Wash Common, Newbury Team, has retired; **the Revd Guy Chapman**, Vicar Ambrosden with Merton and Piddington, to retire 30 August; the **Revd Lindsay Collins**, Curate Witney, resigned January; **the Revd Antonia Cretney**, Priest in Charge Beedon and Peasemore w. West Ilsley and Farnborough, to be Rector; **the Revd Philip Dallaway**, Rector All Saints', Didcot, to be Vicar St John the Baptist, Caversham; **the Revd Simon Dust**, Curate Chesham Bois, to be Priest in Charge Bushmead Fellowship, Luton, St Alban's Diocese; **the Revd Rob Farman**, Rector Wootton w. Glympton and Kiddington, to be Team Vicar King's Norton Team Ministry, Birmingham Diocese; **the Revd Tom Farrell**, Rector St Margaret Lothbury and St Stephen Coleman Street, London Diocese, to be Associate Priest (NSM) Burford w. Fulbrook and Taynton, Asthall w. Swinbrook and Widford; **the Revd Giles Fraser**, Chaplain Wadham College and Curate St Mary the Virgin, Oxford, to be Vicar Putney, Southwark Diocese; **the Revd Beren Hartless**, Priest in Charge Seer Green and Jordans and Oxford Archdeaconry OLM Training Officer, to be Buckingham Archdeanconry Portfolio Co-ordinator and OLM Training Officer.

Continued on page 8

SNIPPETS

A NEW EXHIBITION of Stanley Spencer's paintings was opened by last month at the Spencer Gallery, Cookham by Bishop Richard, the gallery's patron. 'An English Visionary: the Religious Paintings of Sir Stanley Spencer', which includes major works on loan from other galleries, is open daily until 10 September from 10.30am to 5.30pm. Spencer's 'Christ Carrying the Cross' and 'The Resurrection, Cookham' appeared in the recent National Gallery exhibition 'Seeing Salvation'.

THE ARAB CHRISTIAN Hospital in Gaza is to receive part of the profits from the sale of our millennium lapel crosses. Next year's Diocesan pilgrimage led by Bishops Dominic and Mike will visit the hospital. A project in the UK will also receive money from the crosses.

A CHOIR MEMBER of St Peter and St Paul, Botley, was killed near Oxford railway station on 11 May. Rachel Barker of North Hinksey was in collision with a lorry as she cycled to work at Debenhams store, where she was named employee of the year in 1999.

AFTER THE EASTER morning service at Holy Trinity, Rotherfield Greys, Henley, the congregation went into the spring sunshine for an open-air service to dedicate their millennium garden. It includes three new benches sponsored by church members.

NOREEN COOPER of Stoke Poges Quiet Garden (April DOOR) will be taking part in a one-day 46-mile hike around the home bases of the Pathfinder Force on 17 June to raise money for the Quiet Garden Trust.

Old and new in the Burnham bell tower: Gordon Limmer, who has rung for 75 years, with new ringer Isaac Price on new year's day 2000.

Photograph: Jim Walker

GORDON LIMMER *(above, right)* has retired from bell-ringing just before his 91st birthday. He has been ringing for 75 years in Burnham, Bucks but is no longer able to climb the 33 tower steps. He joined the bell ringers in 1925 when his voice broke and he could not sing in the choir. He is shown above on 1 January 2000, when he was one of 11 adults who rang the bells at noon. They were joined by children aged between five and nine who have been learning to ring the sanctus bell: Isaac Price (*in the picture*), Charlotte Annetts, David Dainty and Stephen Greenham.

WEAR A GREEN ribbon on Rogation Sunday, 28 May, to highlight the farming crisis and to express support for farmers. The ribbon was included with worship packs sent to parishes in the Diocese. Rogation Sunday has also been designated a day of prayer for farmers. Bishop Anthony is visiting the Oxfordshire Country Fayre at Hopcroft's Holt on 28 May where he is due to meet Young Farmers and pray for local people involved in farming and related industries.

The commuting Christian

Chris Neal, the Diocese's Evangelisation Officer, looks at the important topic of relating our faith and our work

In the evangelisation process, and especially in the Focus Conferences earlier this year, two key issues kept emerging: leadership and relating faith and work. I will address the second of these this month, and look at leadership next. Faith and work is a huge area, but it may be helpful to highlight one or two principles.

One of our church members, a 28-year-old social worker, once said, 'For the first time in my Christian life I am being challenged to relate my faith to my work.' This staggered me because she had been a member of the Church since childhood, involved in the Christian scene at university, and eager to learn and grow as a disciple. I suspect that her mindset is echoed in congregations across the country. Why? Most of us have inherited an image of Church that speaks of special things, said and done by special people, in special places, on a special day. While I would not want to deny the importance of gathering on a Sunday, it has created a 'commuter' mentality. Christians gather in church on Sunday and then 'commute' back into the rest of life for the rest of the week and sometimes find it hard to make a connection between the two worlds.

Compartments

This commuter mentality is often exacerbated by the mindset of church leadership. Maintaining church life becomes so absorbing that it can become an end in itself and church becomes a self-contained compartment in the totality of life.

A vicar in a Kent commuter town spent the first six weeks of his sabbatical travelling to London with church members and sharing their day in their place of work. Afterwards he told his PCC that 95% of what they did in church was irrelevant to the majority of church members in their working lives.

Evangelisation challenges us to break out of the compartmentalisation of life, and to encourage each other to work out the connection between faith, work and indeed the whole of life. It also lays a responsibility on church leaders to ensure that our gatherings for worship and teaching are equipping people for the whole of life.

Seeing the whole

Perhaps we will begin to see life in a whole way as we continue to reflect on the person and purpose of God as he has shown himself in Jesus Christ. In Jesus, God declared his love for the whole of creation, and in his ministry Jesus continually challenged the narrowness and compartmentalisation of so much religion. He was prepared to cross every boundary and expressed kingdom principles in every area of life. Jesus never 'commuted' from the religious to the secular. For him life was whole, because the whole of life was a gift from, and of importance to, his Father.

If you missed the Prayer Conference on 3 June but wish to support in prayer the work of evangelisation in the Diocese by joining the Prayer NETWORK, and to receive regular copies of NETWORK News to aid informed prayer, please contact Katrina at the Evangelism Office 01844 216097.

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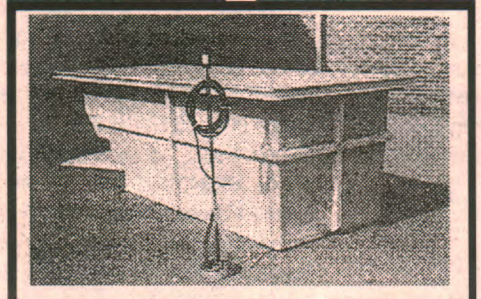
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Interview...

Bishop Anthony looks back...

A QUIET AND PASTORAL BISHOP was how one columnist described Anthony Russell on hearing the news that he is to be the next Bishop of Ely. But is that to underestimate this modest courteous man? His 12 years as Bishop of Dorchester have marked a turning point for rural Oxfordshire. His interests and expertise range from farming issues and the poetry of George Herbert to social concerns such as low cost housing and mental health in rural areas

I was on a tractor on the morning of the day that I went to Cuddesdon in the afternoon. So I really did go straight from the seat of a tractor into theological college.

I come from a Christian family stretching back over generations of farmer church wardens although I don't think there has ever been a priest before. We had a farm in Latimer just in this Diocese on the Hertfordshire border.

It is quite extraordinary to be

where I am and to have always lived in villages of under 300 people. My religious formation took place in village churches. That was what nurtured me and that was where I expected that my ministry would be exercised. At an early stage I felt strongly the sense of being called into the life of the Church.

I saw myself specialising in ministering in rural parishes. My first curacy was in the Hillsborough group of parishes in the Diocese of Norwich 20 miles from Ely. There were about 1400 people in ten villages spread over 75 square miles in some of the least densely populated parts of England.

Then I moved to Warwickshire to be the incumbent of three very small villages just south of Stratford-on-Avon but at the same time I was first the chaplain and then the Director of the Arthur Rank Centre at the National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh. This was the unit that dealt with the people of the countryside. I didn't remotely aspire to becoming a bishop. I was very happily engaged in a whole range of activities. Stoneleigh is quite a remarkable place to work at. If you stand still long enough the whole of the rural world passes you by. We were breaking new ground in areas of affordable and low cost housing and employment. About the last thing I did when I was there was to begin all the work on stress and suicide in the farming community.

One of the things I was particularly concerned with when I became Bishop of Dorchester in 1988 was to raise the morale and profile of the Dorchester Area. The Bishop of Dorchester up until my immediate predecessor was a canon of Christ Church who looked after educational matters but didn't look after Oxfordshire which only

become a formal Area in 1984. It is not always appreciated that 50 per cent of the settlements in Oxfordshire have fewer than 500 people. So inevitably the Dorchester Area was less well established in people's minds and for the people of north and west Oxfordshire especially it seemed to be the forgotten part of the Oxford Diocese. Addressing that was an important part of the early stages of my ministry here and was also the point of my living in Sibford Ferris.

Rural ministry has changed considerably since I became Bishop of Dorchester. Some years ago many of the people who were looking at the problems of the countryside regarded the Church as one of the causes of the problems. That has now changed and a wide group of partnership organisations, who are concerned with the future of the countryside, now see the Church as a very active and helpful partner in relating to the community and to the social issues of rural areas.

The second area of great change has been the restructuring of the Church in the countryside. Early on in my time here, we produced a paper called 'The Future of Our Past', which was based on the assumptions that there would be larger primary pastoral units, each with a ministry team in which non-stipendiary clergy would play an increasingly significant role. That has all happened in Oxfordshire during the last 12 years and my ten years as chairman of the governing body of first the Oxford Ministry Course and then the St Alban's and Oxford Ministry Course brought me very close to all of that.

I feel more optimistic than when I came about the Church in the countryside. First of all I think we are getting to grips with the real issues in a way that perhaps the Church hadn't before when it was slightly colluding in a rather romantic image of the countryside. Secondly I think that the old status that attached to rural ministry has completely disappeared and churches stand or fall by how active they are and how they are perceived by the people in the community.

To work your way into the job of being a priest anywhere takes time. The fact that I have been here 12 years means that I have got to know a huge number of people in my Area. If anything happens I know to whom to speak and I shall miss that. I shall also miss Dorchester Abbey. It is actually where my wife and I were married and I draw a lot of spiritual strength from the memory of Birinus there.

I shall also miss the very good relationships that there are between people in this

Diocese. We sometimes underestimate how well the Oxford Diocese works as a diocese partly because of the leadership at the top but partly because there are assumptions in this Diocese that things are going to work and happen.

It is a happy man that can say he has done what he set out to do and I think I am a happy man. I set off imagining that I would spend a life ministering in rural areas and that is actually what I have been able to do and I believe that is what I have been called to do.

My wife has had a considerable role here and will be remembered especially for her hospitality. As a former assistant to the Welfare Officer of the Red Cross in Oxfordshire

she probably knows Oxfordshire and its people better than I do. I would like to be remembered not for being a great public figure but as someone who was available around the parishes, someone to whom people could turn.

You find out a lot about yourself when you are appointed to another job. Ruth Gledhill, *The Times* religious affairs correspondent, recently wrote about me as 'a quiet and pastoral bishop'. That is a great compliment in this day and age and that is how I would like to be remembered.

Photograph by **Frank Blackwell**

Interview by **Christine Zwart**

The farmers' bishop

He came when the north of the Diocese was settled in a rusticating stupor and proceeded to rouse us and now we are an Area proud to exist. He speaks the language of the country dweller and always has time to listen and care. We will remember splendid sermons on George Herbert and the exemplary way of ending a meeting on time, leaving no one feeling they had not had their say. We will also be eternally grateful to Sheila for her quiet support and hospitality. Ely's gain is our loss. We wish them well.
Elizabeth Higgs, farmer, churchwarden, deanery lay chairman

Bishop Anthony – the farmer's bishop – a man with a deep understanding of the countryside and its problems. He has done so much for the farming community. Our loss is Ely's gain. God bless you Anthony.
George Fenemore
farmer and churchwarden

We'll miss his monthly visits – his day to read, ponder, pray. Our father in God – unassuming, caring, affirming, a listening ear and wise, shepherd's crook, measured pace. Our brother in Christ – humble, courteous, gentle humour, sharp wit, polished brogues, muddy boots. He had an amazing breadth and depth of knowledge, lightly worn.
Brother Stuart OSB,
Burford Priory

Bishop Anthony has been a great support to Dorchester Abbey and the annual St Birinus Pilgrimage (never missing the 12-mile walk from Blewbury to Dorchester!). The local clergy will miss his care and Sheila's generous hospitality.
John Crowe
Rector of Dorchester

Not every rural chaplain gets to work with a Bishop who is knowledgeable about rural issues. We often attended meetings together. Sometimes I would deputise for him – and he would deputise for me too!! I have valued Bishop Anthony's skill and knowledge, support and encouragement, and will miss our close working relationship.
Glyn Evans, Diocesan Rural and Regional Officer

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New ordinands

Jonathan Bicknell
Chesham Bois
I'm moving 'over the border' from Berkhamsted (St Alban's Diocese) to Chesham Bois, Bucks. For seven happy years I was parish youth worker in Berkhamstead and would reiterate the honour of being called to serve God and his people. My family (my wife Joanna, Charlie, 7, and Hope, 4) are looking forward to seeing me trade in jeans and T-shirt for priestly robes!

Rosemary Bragg
Maidenhead
I will be serving in the parish of All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, where I have been Reader since 1997. I qualified as a pharmacist and with my husband Jim lived in Belgium for 11 years. I worked in the pharmaceutical industry in Regulatory Affairs for nearly 20 years before retiring last September, a few days before commencing a one-year ministry course at St Stephen's House.

Sarah Coakley Littlemore
I am Mallinckrodt Professor of Divinity at Harvard University where I am engaged in training men and women for the ministry in an ecumenical context. I previously taught at Oriel College, Oxford and at Lancaster University. My family and I still live part of each year in Oxford where one of our two daughters is a student at New College.

Anne Faulkner Aylesbury
I have been Parish Development Adviser in the Archdeaconry of Buckingham for almost 12 years. As the main focus of my ministry has been, and will continue to be, with the churches of Bucks, my work base is in my home in Aylesbury, where my husband Peter is Team Vicar. I shall be licensed to the Parish of Aylesbury with Bierton and Hulcott where I shall also minister.

Stuart Gay Sunningdale
I am a 'Man of Kent', and a proud Gillingham FC supporter, although Carol and I have lived away from Kent since we were married. Carol is a secondary school teacher, we do not have children (not our choice) and we have been married four years, having known each other since our teens. We are very much looking forward to serving the parish of Holy Trinity, Sunningdale, Berks.

Anthea Griggs Sunningdale
I trained as a secondary school teacher, taught in London and overseas, married in 1962, had two sons, returned to teaching in 1971, was widowed 1983. I graduated in Religious Studies from Edinburgh in 1986, since when I worked in residential posts until I retired as headmistress of St George's, Ascot in 1998. I was licensed as Reader in 1996.

Their future is ordained

The new deacons will be ordained at Christ Church Cathedral on 2 July at 10.30am. Please pray for them and for the priests being ordained on 1 and 2 July (see box bottom left) as they minister in our Diocese.

Harriet Harris
I have been training at St Stephen's House and in the new academic year shall return to my work as lecturer in theology at the University of Exeter. My husband Mark is also training for ordination. When not at theological college we go cycling, and hope soon to take on the Alps.

James Howson Cogges
I have lived most of my life in Weston Underwood, Bucks, and before ordination training in Cambridge served as a Reader in the Gate Group of parishes. I studied music at Huddersfield University and worked as a peripatetic brass teacher for the Milton Keynes Music Service for eight years. I am looking foward to serving in Cogges and South Leigh, Witney.

Alex Hughes Headington
After a theology degree in Oxford, I have been continuing my studies at Westcott House and will serve my title at Holy Trinty, Headington Quarry. I am married to Sarah and we have just celebrated our second wedding anniversary. Sarah works as a care assistant in residential homes for the elderly. We both enjoy reading contemporary English literature, foreign travel, walking and gardening.

Penny Joyce Oxford
Brought up in Dorset, I have spent most of my career in the teaching profession. In 1989 I became head of a first school in Chesham, and was there until called to ordained ministry in 1998. I have appreciated my training at Wycliffe Hall, where I was Common Room President. I am a very contented single person, enjoying travel and being with people. I will be joining St Clement's church in Oxford for my curacy.

Francis Orr-Ewing Oxford
I am known as Frog, and am married to Amy whom I met while we were both Oxford theology undergraduates. On finishing at Wycliffe Hall I will be Curate at St Aldate's, Oxford. I am interested in art, and am a keen painter, having exhibited in London, Bath and Oxford. I am also committed to the work of overseas missions and the plight of the suffering Church.

Angie Paterson Icknield
I am married to Nigel. For the past eight years we have lived in Watlington with our daughters Nicola and Fiona. I have trained for ministry on SAOMC and am looking forward to serving my title in the Benefice of Icknield, which includes my home parish of Watlington. In addition to working in the local parishes I will exercise my ministry through my business consultancy work.

ORDINATION OF PRIESTS
1 July
All Saints, Reading 6pm Bishop of Oxford: Stuart Richards (All Saints, Reading)
2 July
All Saints, High Wycombe 10.30am Bishop of Buckingham: David Allsop (Chenies, Little Chalfont, Latimer, Flaunden), Colin Davis (St Mary, Bletchley), Rosie Harper (Amersham w. Coleshill), Susie Simpson (All Saints, High Wycome), Matthew Stafford (SS Anne and Peter, Wycombe East)
Minster Church of St Mary, Reading 10.30am Bishop of Reading: Lorelie Farmer (St Nicolas, Newbury w. St Mary, Speenhamland), Bruce Russell (Bracknell Team)
St Thomas of Canterbury, Goring 10.30am Bishop of Dorchester: David Childs (Bloxham w. Milcombe and S Newington), Tony Jones (St Ebbe, Oxford), Jonathan Page (SS Mary the Virgin and Nicholas, Littlemore), Peter Steddon (St Thomas, Goring)
SS Peter and Paul, Wantage 6pm Bishop of Basingstoke: James Wilkinson (SS Peter and Paul, Wantage)

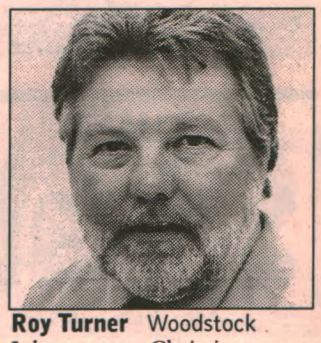
Martin Robbins Thatcham
I am married to Jacqueline and we have both lived in the Diocese most of our lives. Before ordination I worked as a marketing manager for a division of the Burmah Castrol Oil company. I will be serving my title at Thatcham, Berkshire.

Do you feel that God may be calling you to ordained or other ministry in the Church?
If so, you may like to get in touch with the Oxford Diocesan Vocations Fellowship for some help. Chairman: Mrs Hilary Unwin (01494 725228); Director of Ordinands Canon Martin Peirce (01865 721330).

Nat Schluter Gerrards Cross
I am married to Helen who is a GP and has recently given birth to our first child Miriam. We will shortly be moving to my first post as Curate at St James, Gerrard's Cross and St James, Fulmer. I was brought up in Kenya, schooled in Cambridge (where I met Helen), studied for a degree in psychology and doctorate in neuroscience in Oxford before training for ministry at Wycliffe Hall.

Paul Smith Prestwood
Before training at Cuddesdon I lived in Wantage, working for the Baptist Missionary Society in Didcot. My journey towards ordination has been long, yet very rich. I am excited about working in Prestwood, and hope to pursue some hobbies, including music, and especially my passion for cooking, since I just love eating!

Ann Trew Hambleden
After working as a graphic designer for several years and as an active lay worker in the church, I moved on to direct the Abingdon Christian Training Scheme before testing my vocation for full-time ministry. On completing my training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, I look forward to moving with my family, Adrian, Nick, Jackie and Jonathan, to take up my post as Assistant Curate for the HambledenValley Group.



Roy Turner Woodstock
I became a Christian on a youth weekend in 1968 when I heard the Gospel for the first time from a Church Army captain who played the guitar in the pulpit. This really impressed me and since then I have been a member of a Christian folk band The Faith. Before studying theology I was an environmental engineer. I am married to Bev and have three children. I will be working in Bladon with Woodstock.

Comment

In the spirit of Pentecost

FROM THE EDITOR

Pentecost this year promises to be the best for 2,000 years! In the Oxford Diocese alone at least 30,000 Christians will be involved in open- air events. From the Bucks County showground to market places, parks and village greens, Christians are coming out of their churches to witness and celebrate in their communities.

Details of some of the Pentecost events in this Diocese appear on pages 10 and 11. Each one is an ideal opportunity to take along a friend.

Three thousand people were converted in Jerusalem on the first day of Pentecost through the witness of a handful of believers. Who knows what will happen if we dare to do the same.

Clergy Appreciation Week (18 to 25 June) has been described by its sponsors, CARE for the Family, as a 'sort of Mother's Day for vicars'. The very idea may cause squirms of embarrassment back at the vicarage. However, its introduction suggests that some of us do take our clergy and their families for granted.

Three out of four clergy suffer a stress related illness at least once in their ministry. And is it any wonder? In our secular society they have lost status, morale and increasingly safety. We expect them to be always available, always good tempered and a sort of cross between a social worker and God. The miracle is that so many men and women continue to come forward for ordination.

Of course there is the occasional bad apple. But for the most part our clergy serve us better than we deserve. If we remembered to thank them more often they would probably serve us even better.

Why wait until 18 June? Thank your clergy now. If you can't do it face to face, write a letter. It could work wonders. In fact we may not need a Clergy Appreciation Week next year.

Christine Zwart

Diocesan appointments continued from page 4

The Revd David Holmes, NSM St Giles and St Philip and St James w. St Margaret, Oxford, to move to St Alban's Diocese ; **the Revd Liz Johnson**, NSM Charlton-on-Otmoor, to be Assistant Chaplain Littlemore Hospital; **the Revd David Little**, Assistant Chaplain Horfield Prison, Bristol, to be Chaplain Reading HMYOI and RC; **the Revd John Masters** to be NSM Curate St John, Newbury; **the Revd Timothy Naish**, Assoc. Chaplain Bishop Tucker College, Mukono, Uganda, to be Rector Hanborough and Freeland; **the Revd Bob Nichols**, Curate Headington Quarry to be also Chaplain (half-time) St Luke's Hospital, Headington; **the Revd Timothy Norwood**, Curate Upton-cum-Chalvey, to be Team Vicar St Mary, Shenley, Watling Team Ministry; **the Revd Mervyn Puleston**, Team Vicar Dorchester Team Ministry retired 31 May; **the Revd Ian Pusey**, Rector St Mary, Blectchley, to be Priest in Charge The Lamp Group; **the Revd David Rice**, Rector Theale w. Englefield, to be Team Rector Wallingford Team Ministry; **the Revd Richard Rogers**, Curate St John the Evangelist, Carterton, to be Crosslinks Regional Consultant; **the Revd Sue Smith**, Curate Burnham Team Ministry, to be Team Vicar Whitton Team Ministry, Salisbury Diocese; **the Revd Michael Starr**, NSM Faringdon with Little Coxwell, to be NSM Priest in Charge Ashbury, Compton Beauchamp, Longcot w. Fernham; **the Revd Edward Tildesley**, Chaplain Oakham School, to be Team Vicar Bridge Group; **the Revd Simon Walker**, Curate Christ Church, Abingdon, has withdrawn from post as Chaplain, Dean Close School, Cheltenham; **the Revd Timothy Wimbush** to retire as Area Dean Deddington.

Jesus without the baggage

Less froth, more beer says **Ivan Mann** in this Pentecost reflection for the new millennium

ON THE DAY of Pentecost the believers were accused of being drunk! It's a good reflection of Pentecost. After all the emotions of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ Pentecost was a liberation and joy bubbled up – God's champagne being released over all who would believe – an ending and a beginning.

What was to come was the realisation of life in the spirit in the context of a life marked by persecution, martyrdom and amazing manifestations of God's grace in the most unexpected of people. The froth gave way to the beer, the apparent drunkenness to the grittiness of being led by the spirit in the way of Christ – into sharing his suffering and his glory.

There are lessons here for all who believe and who want to follow Christ into his future. Let me draw out four – spirituality, humanity, truth and substance.

Spirituality

In a recent book Rowan Williams has described spirituality as, 'the life of the believer, material, imaginative and desirous... a whole human life to be lived in the 'place' defined by Jesus' (*An Introduction to Christian Spirituality*, edited by Waller and Ward, SPCK, 1999). This is the spirituality which we see lived out in Paul, the living of a whole life by a person longing to know nothing but Christ. Spirituality is not about how we pray, or what spiritual experiences we can claim, but essentially about how we live and how God lives in us. Less froth, more beer... less books on spirituality, more prayer.

Humanity

Such an understanding demands that we take humanity seriously – ours and that of others. We have to face humanity as it is. If the twentieth century is to teach us anything then one lesson will be the cost of inhumanity. Those who believe that we are made in and still bear God's image, that we are temples of the Spirit, will approach other people with love, compassion and respect. We cannot hide behind God, behind religious talk, behind words that 'sound full of love, but only separate us from each other'. Nor can we afford to live in religious ghettos. The real task is to engage with the reality of the world and the reality of God. In so far as we do that the Church will grow. Once you work with the marginalised, the afflicted, the rejected, you soon discover your own poverty and need of God. There's no better way to learn to pray.

How much of what we lug around does Jesus really expect us to carry? Photo by courtesy of Scripture Union is from the Footprints Theatre's 1992 world tour.

Truth

The spirit that leads us into all truth demands that we address the real issues of the day and that we dare to listen to what God is saying through his prophets and through the events that surround us. It's been fascinating to see the public response to the National Gallery's 'Seeing Salvation' exhibition. Apparently 200,000 people have been to see it and the number of weekend visitors has set a new record. The *Church Times* (20 April) article is headed 'Record numbers want to see Jesus 'without baggage'. In a less publicised event a group of Christians in London staged a passion play which involved a cast of a thousand – many of whom have no religious affiliation. Maybe there's a lesson here - the spirit speaks through the truth of the story of Christ best when we allow it be free of baggage, free of religiosity. Less froth, more beer.

Substance

In other words, Pentecost needs to be expressed not just in emotions and joyous celebration (though they're vital too), but through the substance of the Christ event and through the substance of the lives of those who truly follow him. Nobody catches that better than the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey: 'Where exciting gifts are seen, there is the Spirit. But where hard work is done with cheerful and unexciting perseverance, where sorrow and pain are borne with quiet fortitude ... here too is the Holy Spirit.'

What that means for the Church is, I guess, quite simple. It means being less concerned with survival than with salvation. It means to be more detached from the excess baggage which is costing us so dearly, and to travel light with the gospel alive in our very being. It means less recycling of the past and more living in the present, yet reaching out for God's fulfilment. It means that the church needs to do some dying as well as rising, and all this for the sake of a world, hungry for love.

It means less froth, more beer.

The Revd Ivan Mann, until recently chaplain to the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage, has just become chaplain at the Royal Berkshire Hospital Reading. His books include *Jesus Wept* which he wrote with Vanessa Herrick (DLT, £10.95).

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Analysis

Church marriage after divorce?

NO: says David Winter

'As long as you both shall live' and 'till death us do part' are apparently set to remain the form of the vows taken at a church wedding service. I could never ask anyone to utter the same words 'in the presence of God', but with reference to a second partner. How can you make two vows before God which are mutually exclusive? In order to live faithfully with the second partner, vows relating to the first partner, for whatever reason, are now to be set aside. So what can one do? Altering the Church's rules (without rewording the marriage vows) cannot meet the case. It is not a question of 'guilt' or 'blame' but of the solemnity of the oath taken before God. Are we left helpless and uncaring when faced with a couple seeking to be married where one of them has been married before? I don't think so. It is not the minister's task to make judgments. We shall only end up in deeper trouble if we go down that road (the one proposed, it seems to me, by last year's Report). What we can do is to assure the couple that Christianity is a religion of forgiveness and new starts, and offer to accompany them on their journey into a second marriage. That should include a welcoming Service of Prayer and Blessing after their civil marriage, but without any repetition of lifelong vows before God. It is sufficient if the couple affirm in church their sincerity and promises that they have made to each other (the tense is important) and that the Church affirms God's support for them as they set out, yet again, on what is always a hazardous and demanding commitment.

David Winter writes regularly on page 20 Of The DOOR

YES: says Richard Thomas

We agree that the Christian vision for marriage is that it should be for life, and I have yet to take a wedding where I had any hint that the couple were not hoping for the fulfilment of this vision. But we live in a fallen world where, even with the best intentions, some relationships break down. If we recognise divorce, an implied part of the healing process is the recognition that vows taken in all seriousness, before God and his Church, should no longer be enforced. If we recognise that, how can we hold them over the heads of people whom God has forgiven, for ever making them 'second class' Christians in perhaps the most important area of their lives? Thank God we have a Gospel that offers forgiveness and a new start. Without that, I could not be a Christian, let alone a priest. Unless we demonstrate that Gospel in practical ways, our preaching will be perceived as hollow and harsh. What are we to say to Mary who has tried to make her marriage work, but whose partner has been violent, where the marriage has ended and she has now found someone who loves her and will care for her in marriage? Are we to hold her to vows taken in innocence that have been so brutally abused? I will treat each couple as unique. Provided all the sensible cautions are observed, I will gladly offer them a new start in marriage. My experience is that when this is offered at what is one of the deepest moments of hope in people's lives, it is the most redemptive and loving thing we can do. It has resulted in real Christian commitment for a number of couples for whom I have taken such weddings.

Richard Thomas is Diocesan Director of Communications

Letters to the editor

Banal liturgy, ministry to disabled, drugs problem, financial advice, turning to Judaism

Two cheers for banal liturgy! The front page of the May DOOR quoted the opinion that the language of *Common Worship* is 'quite banal'. The Oxford English Dictionary defines banal as 'open to the use of all the community'. The language of the New Testament is almost entirely that of ordinary, uneducated people, and if our new liturgy were truly banal I would say 'Halleluia!' But for those who like richness of language, there is still the peculiar use of words that mean something different from their common meaning. For example, in an idle moment someone will wonder why in a modern language prayer we would pray for the Pope's farm managers ('the good estate of the catholic Church') or wonder where else in modern English do we use the third person imperative ('To you be glory and praise for ever', 'The Lord be with you'). I am pleased that there are good, memorable turns of phrase in *Common Worship*. Examples such as 'the silent music of your praise', 'bursting from the tomb' and 'he opened wide his arms for us on the cross' are as likely to be retained in the memory as any of the best parts of the Book of Common Prayer.

Revd Phillip Nixon
Goring

Following David Hodgson's letter (May) it needs to be said that, for many years, concern has been expressed about the Church's ministry to people with learning disabilities (the mentally handicapped) and their carers. This has ranged from the World Council of Churches through dioceses and equivalent bodies to local churches. Some good reports and worship material have been produced and groups set up, but as far as I am aware nothing official is going on in our Diocese. (Incidentally, I see that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton has a major conference on the subject this month.) It is worth noting that the Diocese of Southwark produced *Travelling Together: Valuing People with Learning Disabilities*, well worth the price of £6.

As far as carers are concerned, Carers International sets up local groups to give support, and there is also the country-wide Christian Carers Fellowship.

I want to encourage David in his efforts, but also to suggest that at diocesan level there is a need to co-ordinate all that is being done at various levels, not least in many parishes. Perhaps the Southwark model could serve as a basis.

Revd Michael Westney
Slough

'The drugs problem is our problem' (April) really encouraged me. I direct a Christian charity, Life for the World Trust, which has been working for over 30 years providing rehabilitation and care for drug and alcohol misusers and their families.

At times, I have despaired of the Church ever recognising that this is an issue we must address. Drug and alcohol misuse is a problem which has spiritual roots and requires responses that take this into account as well as dealing with its medical and social aspects. Over the past four years calls to our telephone help line in Wycombe have increased rapidly. We have had calls from clergy and Church members concerned with drug and alcohol misuse, within their own families or the congregation. In response, we have developed a number of resources for families and for churches including a leaflet for parents who suspect that a child has a drug problem and one for encouraging drug users to seek our help. There is a need for churches and Christian agencies to work in partnership, so that together we can combat this evil that is blighting more and more lives. We need the prayer and practical support of the Church. We can provide awareness seminars and training workshops for parents, pastoral and youth workers to equip congregations to understand drug issues from a spiritual perspective, so that they can care in Jesus' name. Contact us on 01494 462008, fax 446268.

Patrick Prosser
Life for the World Trust, High Wycombe e-mail lfw@cwcom.net

In response to 'Your money and your life' (March), expert advice in financial matters is valuable and can help tremendously in developing a long-term strategy with a view to getting out of debt and onto a secure financial footing or, at the other extreme, to planning your investments for retirement. The Bible has a number of things to say about financial affairs, and it is good to combine the expertise of the world and the principles of the Bible when developing one's financial strategy.

There are a number of good publications available on the principles of handling money, how to deal with debt and how to run a house group on the subject. Credit Action (01223 324034) will happily provide you with a list. The Association of Christian Independent Financial Advisers (ACIFA) is a nationally organised association able to put you in touch with a local Christian financial adviser.

Mark Roach
Quest Financial Services, Chipping Norton; Association of Christian Independent Financial Advisers

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I read of our Bishop's suggestion that people who are monothestic but do not believe in the divinity of Jesus, and are therefore unable to find their spiritual home in the Christian Church, might like to try Judaism.

I am a church-going Christian but, like many others I know in the Church, I do not believe in the divinity of Jesus in the traditional, supernatural sense. I see him as a spiritual master whose 'divinity' lay in his fully realised humanity and his full communion with God. By working to identify profoundly with the Jesus portrayed in the Gospels I seek to follow Jesus' Way of Love and get closer to God. Such an understanding of Jesus' divinity is just part of an inspiring alternative expression of the Faith, consistent with contemporary thinking about human nature and the cosmos, which can be found in a range of books and experienced in fringe Christian organisations. Sadly, it is not purveyed by the mainstream churches so that the many people for whom such an expression would be deeply meaningful are denied the spiritual comfort and renewal it would bring. Instead they are made to feel unwanted in their spiritual home, and now it is being suggested that they turn to Judaism! Judaism is not an option for us: we seek to follow the Way of Christ with integrity.

What is needed is an opportunity for *all* Church people to be invited to share their faith and doubts honestly and fearlessly. People need to hear about the different ways in which their faith can be expressed so that they can find one to which they can assent with total integrity.

Jill Grant
Abingdon

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Centrepoint

To celebrate Pentecost 2000 Christians all around the Oxford Diocese are preparing to welcome the Holy Spirit and mark the Church's birthday. From kite flying, picnics and dance to confirmations, baptisms or one of the country's biggest celebrations, the festivities will be hard to miss

Set the Dioc

The world flocks to a field in Bucks

Pentecost 2000 organised by Churches Together in Bucks and Milton Keynes, on Pentecost Sunday 11 June, is by far the biggest Pentecost event in the Oxford Diocese and probably in the whole country. BBC 4's Pentecost Sunday 'Songs of Praise' will be broadcast from the event.

At least 20,000 people are expected at the Bucks County Show Ground, Weedon Park near Aylesbury, for Pentecost 2000 which is being supported by 90 per cent of the Christian churches in the area. Many congregations are rescheduling their Sunday services in order to be there at noon for the grand opening by Kathy Staff, the Christian actress who plays the much loved Norah Batty in BBC's *Last of the Summer Wine*.

The central act of Pentecost 2000 will be the afternoon worship at 3.15pm, led by a thousand-strong choir with speakers and worship leaders from all the main Churches, including Fiona Castle. Pentecost Praise at 5.30pm will be led by the popular hymn writer and musician, Graham Kendrick. One aim of Pentecost 2000 is to give people the chance to learn more about the Five Marks of Mission adopted by many churches as their definition of mission in the 21st century. A line up of top speakers have been invited to take a theme and to present it twice in the presentation tent. The Bishop of Oxford speaking on Mark 3: 'To respond to human need by loving service' and Dr Elaine Storkey on Mark 2: 'To teach, baptise and nurture new believers'.

Throughout the day there will be a variety of events in the main arena and in 18 tents covering a range of subjects from conservation to music, drama and local heritage.

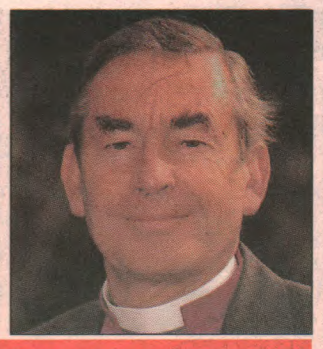
Young people will play an important part in the weekend. Veneration X on the Saturday evening will bring together some 3,000 15-25 year olds with three Christian bands and speakers. Many are staying overnight in tents so as to take part on Sunday morning. There will also be two children's tents and an international dress parade.

Pentecost 2000 has been planned for over three years. It aims to enable Christians to celebrate their faith together and to give an opportunity to the public to find out more about Christianity. Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends! Many tickets have been prebooked but you can buy a ticket at the gate for £5 (no charge for parking). Children under 14 are free. Tickets for Veneration X (£8 or £11 with breakfast and entry to Pentecost 2000) must be booked in advance on the hotline 01908 642120.

Main events
Pentecost Sunday

10.00	Gates open
11.20	First of Five Marks of Mission presentations
12.00	Opening by Kathy Staff and parachute descent
1.10	Children's Dress parade
2 00	Riding Lights Roughshod
3.15	Pentecost 2000 Worship
5.30	Pentecost Praise with Graham Kendrick
7.00	Closing ceremony

For details of all events see website www.pentecost2000bucks.org.uk or contact Canon Derek Palmer on 01295 268201 or the Revd Murdoch Mackenzie on 01908 311310



Kathy Staff (centre) opens Pentecost 2000. The Bishop of Oxford and Fiona Castle will be there too.

front page photo

Praise at Blenheim

Brightly coloured banners, massed choirs, Christian dancers and at least 2000 visitors are expected at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock on Pentecost Sunday, 11 June for Praise in the Park organised by Churches Together in Woodstock and Bladon. Admission to the Park and parking is free from 5.30pm. Bring a picnic and a chair/rug for the celebration at 7pm. Praise in the Park will be co-presented by Father Tom Farrell and former sixties singer, Cindy Kent of Premier Christian Radio. The speaker is Lyndon Bowring, Director of CARE, Details: 01865 768943 or 01993 700765.

Oxford worships

A celebration reflecting different styles of worship is the Oxford churches' contribution to OOMF!, Oxfordshire's millennium weekend. Different church groups will take part in 'Oxford Worships' at 4pm on 2 July at the University Church.

ocese on fire

Fly a kite in Abingdon

The Church-in-Abingdon is advertising its Pentecost 2000 celebrations with kite flying sessions in parks in and around Abingdon during the three weeks leading up to Pentecost. It is hoped that the wind that carries a kite into the air will be a reminder of the Holy Spirit, the 'breath of God'. If you haven't got a kite you can learn to make your own, perhaps to a design representing Pentecost tongues of fire, at a kite-making session for people of all ages on Sunday, 4 June at 2.30pm in St Michael's church room. You can also get a kite pattern and materials from Beadle's ironmongery shop in Ock Street. There will be an all-night vigil on June 10 hosted by St Nicolas' Church followed on the morning of Sunday, June 11 by an open-air service of celebration at 11am in the Abbey grounds. Every church is cancelling its main morning service so that members can process with banners to the celebration in a huge act of witness. The two main processions will leave Christ Church and St Michael and All Angels and the service of celebration will be followed by a giant picnic, games and of course kite flying. For more details about the Pentecost celebrations ring Mgr Declan Lang VG on 01235 520375.

Ascot adopts fiery dress code

The Silver Ring at Ascot's famous race course could turn into a moving sea of Pentecost flames on 11 June if the thousands of Christians expected there for 'Spirit of 2000' respond to the invitation to wear bright red, yellow or orange. The event has been organised by Churches Together in Bracknell and Ascot. It starts at 11 am with 'Run the Race', a formal act of worship and ends with 'Praise and Press On', an informal celebration with the Bishop of Reading (3pm) . A picnic party will last all afternoon and there will be displays, exhibitions, stalls as well as clowns, games, and puppets children. The 'Eternity' youth group, choirs and drama groups will provide continuous performances on stage. People will be encouraged to express their hopes and dreams for the new millennium by writing prayer requests. These will be attached to balloons which will be released in a spectacular cloud of colour during the final act of worship. 'Spirit of 2000 is an unashamedly Christian event but one to which all the local community are invited' according to their excellent website which also gives full programme details: www.Spirit-of-2000.org .

Together with God in Reading

One of Reading's biggest ever birthday parties will take place on 11 June, when Christians from ten churches in the Earley and East Reading area converge on the Loddon Valley Leisure Centre for 'Together with God', an all-age millennium celebration for the Church's birthday. The programme starts at 11.30am. It includes a special all-age act of worship, a praise party for the under-tens and their parents and the alternative comedian, Jon Archer. There will also be a chance to find out more about the Reading churches' millennium project to fund a new home for Christian Community Action. Christians will gather at Chalfont Park and walk together to the Leisure Centre.

For further information ring Kay Dickinson on 0118 9318115 (day) or 0118 926 1878 (evenings) .

Dove lands on millennium green

A stainless steel Bethlehem star with the dove of the Holy Spirit at the centre marks the Christian significance of the year 2000AD on Sonning Common's new Kennylands Millennium Green. The sculpture will be dedicated by local clergy during a Millennium Green community festival on 10 June. It starts at 1.30pm with a procession led by the Gazebo Band. Children from Kidmore End Church of England School are among the young people taking part in a pageant tracing the Christian history of Britain. There will also be tours of the new green which provides a restful recreational open space for residents of all ages. Entrance is free. For further details ring Ian Munro on 0118 972 4382.

Bicester churches celebrate together

Churches in Bicester and Islip Deanery will gather for a Pentecost Deanery Eucharist at St Edburg's Church, Bicester at 10.30am on 11 June. At 1pm there will be a picnic in Garth Park with games for children incorporating the Pentecost theme and at 2pm an ecumenical Songs of Praise with music from the park bandstand. Leading up to Pentecost St Edberg's is hosting an exhibition(20-29 May) about the different Christian denominations and, on 26 May at 7.30pm, a perfomance by singer, priest and song writer, Garth Hewitt. Pentecost details from Elizabeth Taylor (01869 243479), for more about Garth Hewitt from Juliet Ralph (01869 278162).

Pulling the ripcord in Oxford

A free youth concert, with the well known Christian band 'Ripcord', is being put on by St Andrew's Church, North Oxford on 11 June at 8pm. The venue is Frideswide School field, Marston Ferry Road where there will also be a family fun party at 4pm and Pentecost worship at 5.30pm.

'The Salutation' millennium art exhibition at St Andrew's Linton Road, Oxford – 5 to 17 June. Full story page on 19

Bishop confirms record number

A record 70 people are being confirmed by the Bishop of Reading at 'Free the Spirit', Sonning Deanery's open air Millennium Celebration in Cantley Park, Wokingham on 25 June at 3pm. Others will be baptised by total immersion in a portable baptistry. There will be rock bands and street theatre too. Bring a picnic and rugs/chairs. Details: Steve Pope on 01344 778843.

Windsor on parade

Christians in Windsor will gather in the town centre on 11 June for a 10.30am Pentecost service with an address by the Dean of Windsor and singing led by the Band of the Blues and Royals. You can picnic afterwards in the upper Long Walk.

Fun in Mortimer

A Pentecost 2000 'Family Fun Afternoon' will be held at Mortimer Fairground site on 11 June followed by 'Coming Together in Christ', a celebration in a marquee at 6.30pm attended by the Bishop of Reading. The 'Hopes and Dreams' musical *(See The DOORPost)*, is part of a full programme starting at 2pm. Details: 0118 983 4304.

Salvation in prospect

Churches Together in West Reading have organised a service in Prospect Park on 11 June at 3pm with the Salvation Army Band. The speaker is the Revd Phil Abrey, County Ecumenical Officer. Details: 0118 950 7779.

Henley celebrates Jesus

Henley churches are sponsoring Celebration 2000, a packed three-day festival on the Regatta site from 20–23 July. High profile performers include Noel Richards and the London Community Gospel Choir. Festivities begin on 20 July with 'Jewel of the River', a musical pageant, and end on 23 July with a Songs of Praise at 6.30pm with hundreds of voices 'joining together to celebrate Jesus'. Ticket hotline: 0118 960 6060. Programme: 01491 571898.

Wye Valley praise

Churches Together in the Wye Valley have a Millennium Songs of Praise on 9 July, 6pm at the Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End. Details Maura: 01628 530181.

Thame on the rock

'Voices from the Rock' is Thame churches' contribution to the Thame 2000 festival, Thame Show-ground. They take the stage on 18 June at 6pm with 'Hymns for all' followed by Debby Barnes and her band performing Gospel rock. At 8.15pm Inter Church Productions present highlights from Gospel rock musicals. Details: 01844 290279.

Newbury's spirit wave

Newbury's market square will fill with Christians from the town's 15 churches for a 10.30am service on 11 June. Chris Neal, Diocesan Director of Evangelisation, will preach. A Holy Spirit Mexican wave using red, yellow and orange programmes will be accompanied by 'wind sounding music'. Details: 01635 47018.

Marston lights up

A community play, a tea dance and a big band party and are among the events in the Marston Millennium Festival (23 to 30 June). Workshops on 13 and 19 June to make lanterns to carry on the festival's last night and at Oxford OOMF! *(see page 10)*. Details from Christine Turley on 01865 721224.

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Banbury in Bloom 2000 Competition

CATEGORIES

1. **Best Front Garden** — Sponsored by Hurrans Garden Centre — **Judging w/c 24th July**
2. **Tallest Sunflower grown by a children (up to 16 yrs)** — Sponsored by Hurrans Garden Centre — **Judging w/c 21st August**
3. **Best Shop Frontage/ Shop Window Display** — Sponsored by Banbury Guardian — **Judging w/c 24th July**
4. **Best Hotel/ Pub Frontage/ Garage Forecourt** — Sponsored by Banbury Guardian — **Judging w/c 24th July**
5. **Best Hanging Basket/ Floral Container Display** — Sponsored by Banbury Guardian — **Judging w/c 24th July**
6. **Best Community/Street/Residents Association** — Sponsored by Banbury House Hotel — **Judging w/c 24th July**
7. **Best Allotment** — Sponsored by CDC Leisure Services — **Judging w/c 24th July**
8. **Best School Gardening Project** — Sponsored by McDonalds — **Judging w/c 24th July**
9. **Best Water Efficient Garden/ Community Project** — Sponsored by Thames Water — **Judging w/c 24th July**
10. **Greenest Commercial Premises** — Sponsored by Banbury Guardian — **Judging w/c 24th July**
11. **Best Council Sheltered Housing Display** — Sponsored by CDC — **Judging w/c 24th July**
12. **Best Emergency Services Floral Display** — Sponsored by Prestige Personnel — **Judging w/c 24th July**
13. **Best 'in Bloom Theme' photograph - 6"x4"** — Sponsored by Banbury Camera Club — **Judging w/c 31st July**
14. **Best 'Environmental Landscape' photograph - 6"x4"** — Sponsored by Banbury Camera Club — **Judging w/c 31st July**

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ENTRY FORM
Please return by: **July 17th 2000**
To: Banbury in Bloom, Cherwell District Competition,
Bodicote House, Whitepost Road, Bodicote, Oxon OX15 4ED
I would like to enter the following category(ies) of Banbury-in-Bloom (Please circle)
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
Please print:
Full name: .....
Address: .....
..... **Postcode** .....
Telephone: Home ..... **Work** .....

THIS YEAR'S THEME: HOBBY HORSES

Calendar of Events 2000 - BANBURY

APRIL
Making Bird Boxes - Schools
Floral Basket Workshops - Community
Planting of Sunflower Seeds for competition
Keep Britain Tidy - Spring Clean - Foil recycling
MAY
Floral Basket Workshops - Schools
Pond Dipping - School
Worm Farms
Constructing - Water Conservations Garden
Planting Bamboo Gardens
Treasure Hunt
Creating Sculptures
JUNE
Banbury in Bloom Launch - Schools
Designing and making Yurts-Schools
Erecting Hanging Baksets around town
Floral Trail
Tree Trail
Environment forum - Organic Foods
Community Plantings
Making Hobby Horse
JULY
Thames & Chiltern in Bloom Judging
Entries for Banbury in Bloom Photographic Competition
Hobby Horse Festival
Radio Horton Road show - start of Sundays in the Park

Bicester Sixth Form

A Levels (2 year courses)

Art	Biology	French
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Geography	Theatre Studies	Religious Studies
3D Design	Music	Business
Psychology	I.T.	
Design Technology Food	Design Technology Textiles	

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Intermediate Business (1 year course)
Intermediate Leisure & Tourism (1 year course)
Intermediate Health & Social Care (1 year course)
Intermediate I.T. (1 year course)

Additional Qualifications, available through the Adult Education Programme (evenings)
Psychology A Level (40 weeks)
Law GCSE (30 weeks)
Italian GCSE (30 weeks)
Spanish (30 weeks)

Registration Days:
Thursday 24th August, Tuesday 5th September

Please contact Ken Williams, Director of Sixth Form for details on 01869 243331

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the Door post

JUNE 2000

Courses

Archdeaconry of Oxford
14 June for three weeks More Help with Sermons Warwick Hall, Burford 7.30 -9.30pm £10
Details: Jeni Hobbs, Church House 01865 208252

Chiltern Christian Training Programme
10 June Music in Worship St Birinus Booker 9.30am-1pm £4
Full programme and bookings: CCTP, 175 Dashwood Ave, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3DB, tel/fax 01494 474788

Cottesloe Christian Training Programme
8 June for seven weeks 'Journey' based on videos Wing Village Hall 8-9.30pm £18 (book by 1 June)
19 June New Start for the Church Padbury village Hall 8-9.30pm £3 (book by 12 June)
3 July GM Crops – are they natural? St Barnabas' Church Hall, Linslade 8-9.30pm £3 (book by 26 June)
Details: Revd Roger James. Church Cottage, Waterloo Rd, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7LP, tel/fax 01525 375109.

Highmoor Hall
6 June Science and Faith – a real conflict? 8pm Lucy and Brendan Bailey £5
8 July Spirituality and Psychology – friends or foes? Wendy Robinson 10am-4pm. £18 Bring your lunch.
Details The Administrator, The Lodge, Highmoor Hall, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 5DH.

Oxford Diocese
5, 12, 19 June Pre-retirement course for those within five years of retiring Church House
Details David Haylett, Church House 01865 2082254.
15 June Meetings Heavenly Meetings £15 Church House

Milton Keynes Christian Training Course
14 June Rural and Ecumenical Lifelines Day: introduction to challenges facing churches and communities in rural Milton Keynes Sherington Rectory, School Lane, Sherington, plus local visits. 9.30am-3pm Free; small donations welcomed.
30 June Life Long Learning – the New Lectionary 7.30pm Our Lady of Lourdes, Lloyds, Coffee Hall. Free
8 July City and Ecumenical Lifelines Day: visits to City Centre, Police Station, Shopping Management and Council Chamber, etc. 9.30-5pm. Free; donations welcome.
Details: Barbara Albone, MKCTC, Christian Foundation,The Square, Aylesbury St, Wolverton, MK12 5HX Tel/fax 01908 311310.

Newbury Area Christian Training
5 June for three weeks Spirituality from Scratch St Mark's, Cold Ash 7.45-9.45pn £9.
Details Margaret Davey 01635

Reading and Bracknell Christian Training
17 June Bereavement & Funerals workshop
24 June S/he Who Sings Prays Twice: singing workshop
Details Judi Shepherd, Parish Development Office, St Nicolas' Church Hall, Sutcliffe Ave, Earley, Reading RG6 7JN, tel. 0118 926 1451, e-mail: pdaberks@oxford.anglican.org

Justice and Law 2000
Criminal Justice and Christian Responsibility: seminars run by Board for Social Responsibility for people who work within the justice system 10am - 3.30pm.
3 June St Peter, Earley;
1 July Bierton School, Aylesbury. If you would like to be involved but have not had an invitation, *contact Kate*

Wycliffe Hall, Oxford
Diploma in Biblical and Theological Studies Two-year part-time course Thur evenings ten weeks plus four/five study days normally on Sat. £550 for 2000-2001. *Details DBTS Administrator, Wycliffe Hall, 54 Banbury Rd, Oxford OX2 6PW, tel. 01865 274212, e-mail: external@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk*
14-18 Aug Summer School: This is Your God!
Details: Summer School, address as above

10 June Anglican Renewal Ministries training day: Developing Prayer Ministry St Paul's Church, St Alban's, followed by eucharist 4pm. £5
Details Sue Clarke 01332

Riding Lights Theatre Company Summer Theatre School 22-29 July
Escrick near York Residential courses for teenagers and adults
Brochure: 01904 655317

Lectures

15 June Oxford Industrial Chaplaincy Spirit at Work: first annual lecture New Road Baptist Church, Bonn Square, Oxford 7.45 for 8pm.
If coming contact 01865 245349; e-mail: barbara.hayes@talk21.com

26 June Anglo-Catholic History Society Inaugural Meeting 7.30pm Library of St Mary's Presbytery, 30 Bourne St, London SW1 (Sloane Square tube) Rt Revd Geoffrey Rowell on Prejudices and Perspectives: Anglo-Catholic History Reconsidered. £3 including glass of wine. The Society aims to present occasional lectures which are scholarly yet accessible to those interested in the Catholic

Outdoors

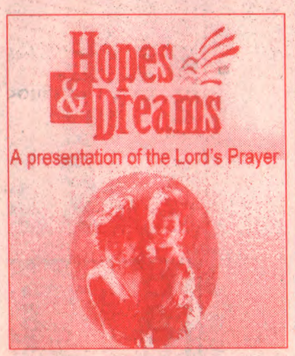
10 June Jesus Day March for Jesus London
Assemble 12.30-1.30pm Shooters Hill Rd (A207) to W of junction with Academy Rd (A205) to march to Blackheath for worship and prayer. Very limited parking; please come by public transport – there is plenty! Church packs £3.50 each, programmes free, postage 50p each or £3.50 per pack of ten.
Details: March for Jesus, Waverley Abbey House, Waverley Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8EP, tel. 01252 784774. www.gmfj.org

St Birinus' Pilgrimage
9 July Picnic from 12.30pm Church Knob, Blewbury, leaving 1pm for 12-mile walk; or leave Brightwell cum Sotwell 3.30pm for 5-mile walk. Teas 4.30pm St Birinus Catholic Church, Dorchester; procession leaves 6pm for Dorchester Abbey; ecumenical service 6.30pm.

Celebrating Together
16 July Wycombe Swan Theatre 3.30-5.30pm Music, drama, puppets, stories, mega picnic in the park £2.50 children, £5 adults. Some tickets left *Jenny Hyson, 01865 208255*

What's On?
Please send us details in writing of your church events, including a contact telephone number. The deadline for the next issue is below; you do need to stick to it! We will try to include every-

Details of Pentecost and Millennium celebrations
see centre pages 10-and 11



9-10 June Bracknell
Musical from Rob Frost Production Team to celebrate millennium: music, dance, drama, based on Lord's Prayer, performed by local people. Wild Theatre, South Hill Park, Bracknell 9 June 7.30pm 10 June 2.30 and 7.30pm. Free millennium exhibition by local community 9am-10pm Churches Together in Bracknell
Tickets £8 (conc. £6) Box office 01344 484123.
www.hopes-and-dreams.co.uk

CHURCH TEA GUIDE
Is your church offering refreshments this summer?

In the July issue we will publish our annual Church Tea Guide. If your church offers refreshments on a regular basis to visitors in the summer and would like to be included (free), please let us know by Monday 5 June giving details: opening times, type of refreshments, if you accept party bookings, if there is wheelchair access, and a contact phone number. Write to 'Tea Guide', the DOOR.

The July issue of

Rural issues

15 June Rural Problems - Rural Solutions Conference for rural churches and others interested, to discuss rural issues across SE region. Woodham Hall, Christ Church, Woking, Surrey 10am - 4pm £10. Organised by South East Rural Churches Group & South East Farming and Rural Support Groups.
Details Revd Glyn Evans, Diocesan Rural and Regional Officer and Chairman of South East Rural Churches Group 01608 674313, glynevans@goldserve.net

20 June North Oxon and Cotswolds Rural Study Group (part of the Rural Theology Association) 'In the beginning God created' - a discussion of the ethical issues surrounding land use. Litchfield Farm, Enstone, 7.30 for 7.45pm. All welcome: *let us know if you are coming: Elizabeth, Lady Higgs 01608 677255, or the Revd Glyn Evans 01608 674313, glynevans@goldserve.net*

28 June Rural Issues Community Lunch Benson Parish Hall 12 noon - 2pm. Quarterly meeting open to all working in or interested in rural issues in South and Vale districts. Bring your lunch; hot drinks provided. £1 donation
Barbara Jordan, Community Development Officer, Social Services, PO Box 118, Thame District Office, OX9 3FT, tel 01844 217904, or Revd Glyn Evans, 01608 674313

BBC RADIO OXFORD 95.2
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Enjoy your Sunday breakfast

Worship

Music & Worship Foundation (Oxon)
5, 12 June Sight Singing Skills 7.45pm St Clement's Family Centre, Cross St, Oxford.
Apply Paul Herrington, 56 Besselsleigh Rd, Wootton, Abingdon OX13 6DX
10 June Kids' Praise Saturday Club Cumnor Primary School. 10am-12.30pm Groups for under 5s, 7s-11s, 12s+ If you play a portable instrument please bring it! Living Stones Christian Fellowship and MWF.
To register tel 01993 700580, or 01865 862212.
Watch out for Prism of Praise 21 Oct Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church, Birmingham: world praise, gospel, creative musicianship, music and healing, music and liturgy, Celtic worship. Workshops for singers, bands, orchestras, music and worship leaders £15.
Details MWF Prism of Praise, 8 Silverdale, Fleet, Hants GU13 9TT, tel. 01252 614604, www.mwf.org.uk e-mail: granville.lovat@dtn.ntl.com

Christ Church Cathedral Sundays 8am Holy Communion, 10am Matins and Sermon; 11.15am Sung Eucharist; 6pm Evensong.
2 July Ordination of Deacons 10.30am; see page 7. Entrance by ticket
Weekdays 7.15am Matins; 7.35am Holy Communion; 6pm Evensong (Thursdays or Major Feast Days 5.35pm Said Evensong and 6pm Sung Eucharist).

Organ Day for All
9 Sep Reading 9.30am-4pm £2.50 Beginners, advanced players Book by 29 July. Run

Notices

Pastoral/parish assistants
If you are a member of a church pastoral care team and would be interested in sharing experiences/training with others, contact Alison Shaw, 127 Abingdon Rd, Standlake OX8 7QN, tel. 01865 300615.

Small haven
I am offering the possibility of a 'haven' in my house in a rural setting 14 miles from Oxford for up to one week, including the opportunity to paint in my studio with or without tuition, to people who are in need of quiet time in a supportive environment, perhaps who are dealing with life changes or under severe stress (but not anyone who needs medication under supervision, or who is violent or suicidal). I am a trainee psychotherapist certificated to practise counselling under supervision; the visitor would have to be referred by a therapist or similar. Cost will depend on requirements. Jenifer Wates 01993 868427.

Holiday in France
A two-week timeshare holiday in apartment near Val d'Isere in the French Alps available 13-27 August £350. Sitting room with four sofas which convert into beds, a bathroom, kitchen, reserved underground car parking. Details Caroline Dyer, Diocesan Trustees (01865 208203).

Special dates:

1 June Prayers for Police Service
See news pages

3-10 June Millennium Child Week
for children at risk; Christians from 65 countries will participate in a prayer initiative. Viva Network, PO Box 633, Oxford OX2 0XZ, tel 01865 450800, e-mail: wwdp@viva.org. www.viva.org

9 July Sea Sunday
Prayers and support for seafarers and their families and the Church's ministry to them. Pack from Mission to Seafarers, St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, London EC4 2RL, tel 020 7248 5202, fax 4761, e-mail: pr@mis-

ment course for those within five years of retiring Church House
Details David Haylett, Church House 01865 208254.
15 June Meetings Heavenly Meetings £15 Church House 9.30am-4pm; bring your lunch.
Details Jeni Hobbs, Church House 01865 208252

for people who work within the justice system 10am - 3.30pm.
3 June St Peter, Earley;
1 July Bierton School, Aylesbury. If you would like to be involved but have not had an invitation, *contact Kate Hodgson 01865 208214.*

on Prejudices and Perspectives: Anglo-Catholic History Reconsidered. £3 including glass of wine. The Society aims to present occasional lectures which are scholarly yet accessible to those interested in the Catholic Revival within Anglicanisn in the 19th and 20th centuries.
Details Dr PA Butler 0207 580 4010

writing of your church events, including a contact telephone number. The deadline for the next issue is below; you do need to stick to it! We will try to include everything but of course we can't guarantee to do so.

accept party bookings, if there is wheelchair access, and a contact phone number. Write to 'Tea Guide', the DOOR.

The July issue of the Door will be ready for collection on 23 June

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Organ Day for All
9 Sep Reading 9.30am-4pm £2.50 Beginners, advanced players Book by 29 July. Run by RCO and RSCM
Details David Oldfield 01344 420336

9 July Sea Sunday
Prayers and support for seafarers and their families and the Church's ministry to them. Pack from Mission to Seafarers, St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, London EC4 2RL, tel 020 7248 5202, fax 4761, e-mail: pr@missiontoseafarers.org

what's on

What's On is a free service for readers of The Door. If you would like your event included on The DoorPost, send details in writing to the address below before the deadline Monday 12 June 2000.

JUNE

Thu 1-Sat 3 BURFORD Benjamin Britten's Noye's Fludde Parish Church 7.30pm. Tickets 01993 822305.

Sat 3 BUCKINGHAM Men's Breakfast Senior Common Room Dining Room, University of Buckingham at the Old Town Mill 8am. Tickets Charlie MacDonald 01280 822688.

Sat 3 HAMBLEDEN Harpsichord and soprano concert St Mary the Virgin 7.30pm. Tickets £7.50 01491 574652.

Sat 3 GT ROLLRIGHT Chipping Norton Male Voice Choir St Andrew's 7.30pm Tickets £5 at door or 01608 737359.

Sat 3-Sun 4 LILLINGSTONE LOVELL Open gardens, flowers in church, organ music, bells, arts and crafts, teas in village hall; 12-6pm £2.50; Sun 6.30pm Songs of Praise. 01280 860449.

Sun 4 BURFORD PRIORY Gardens open 2.30-5.30pm. 01993 823605.

Sun 4 ASTON ABBOTTS Gardens open 2-6pm. Teas, church open. 01296 681343.

Sun 4 BOURNE END Historic St Nicholas Hedsor open Sundays in June, July, Aug 2.30-4.30pm, teas. 01628 530181.

Wed 7 READING Choral Evensong: cathedral-style Prayer Book Service Reading Minster Midweek Choir 6.15pm Minster Church of St Mary the Virgin.

Thu 8 STOKE POGES Quiet Garden day 'The Christian Way–a New Creation in Christ' Stoke Park Farm, Park Road 10am-12.45 (stay for whole day and bring lunch). 01753 643050.

Fri 9 HIGH WYCOMBE Storm: multimedia youth service designed by youth for youth St Birinus Church, Sycamore Rd 8pm. 01494 522414.

Sat 10 MAIDENHEAD Esterhazy Singers concert for church funds All Saints', Boyne Hill 7.30pm. Tickets £6 and details Parish Office 01628 621933, Brian Graves 635534.

Sat 10 BERRICK SALOME St Helen's Millennium Fete at the Malt House (opp. The Chequers) stalls, bouncy castle, pony rides, swimming, teas. 01865 891124.

Sat 10 WENDOVER Piano music St Mary's 8pm. Tickets £9.50 + conc. Tourist Info. Centre / Wendover Bookshop. Details 01296 622805.

Sat 10-Sun 11 STOKE ROW Steam Rally: vintage steam traction engines and heritage vehicles. New location A4074 at Ipsden from10am. Langtree Team 01491 681483.

Sat 10-Sun 11 DUCKLINGTON Flower Festival Events of 20th Century St Bartholomew's 11am-5pm; Sun service 9.30am. 01993 703374.

Sat 10-Sun 11 CROWMARSH GIFFORD Church Flower Festival 'Reflections over 2000 Years' refreshments, cakes, music Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 11am-6pm; Family Communion 10am. 01491 835492.

Sat 10-Sun 11 OLNEY Flower Festival 'Reflections' St Peter & St Paul Sat 10am-5.30pm; Sun 11.30am-5pm. Organ recitals, gardens teas, cakes, plants. 01234 711900.

Sat 10-Mon 12 MAIDENHEAD Flower Festival St Luke's Sat, Sun 10am-6pm; Mon 10am-1pm. Konevets Vocal quartet from St Petersburg Sat 7.30pm. 01628 672006.

Sat 10-Sun 18 CHIPPING NORTON Millennium Flower Festival 'The Life of Christ' 10.30am-7pm. 01608 646202.

Sun 11 SUTTON COURTENAY Dr Niall Moore on Caring for the Sick 11am All Saints'; interdenominational service 10.30am. 01235 848429.

Sun 11 COOKHAM DEAN Open gardens 2-6pm, teas, plants £3.50. 01628 476512.

Sun 11-Sat 17 CHIPPING NORTON Churches Together in Chipping Norton present Riding Lights Roughshod. Box office 01608 641932.

Mon 12 NEWBURY GSS Guild Office and Benediction St John's 8pm. 0118 959 8102.

Wed 14 OXFORD Discussion: The Future of Christian-Jewish Dialogue 8pm Friends' Meeting House, 43 St Giles'. Oxford Council of Christians and Jews, secretary 01865 761630.

Fri 16-Sat 17 SONNING Britten's Noye's Fludde performed by local children. Fri 8pm, Sat 6pm and 8pm. Tickets £6 children £3. Profits to organ restoration fund. Derek Miils 0118 969 9689.

Fri 16-Sun 19 MILTON St Blaise Flower Festival 'Stamens and Stitches': new kneelers, Mummers play, music, teas. Sat, Sun 10am-5pm. 01235 820942.

Sat 17 WINDSOR Royal Free Singers Gems from English Choral Repertoire Parish Church 7.30pm Tickets £7 Ann Ayres 01753 855173.

Sat 17 LITTLEMORE Table top sale village hall 9.30-11.30am. 6ft table £5, half table £2.50 in aid of Church Appeal. 01865 395590.

Sat 17 THE LEE St John Baptist Fete village green 2pm. Maypole, stalls, bouncy castle, music. 01494 837309.

Sat 17 CHIPPING NORTON North Cotswold Chamber Choir St Mary's 7.30pm. Tickets at door. 01608 646202.

Sat 17 NASH Annual Fete 2.30pm Village playing field. Proceeds to All Saints and Nash Village Hall.

Sat 17 SULHAMSTEAD & UPTON NERVET St Mary's Fete 2-5pm Thames Valley Police Training Centre, Sulhamstead House. Stalls, arts & crafts, maypole dancing. 0118 983 2140.

Sat 17 KIDLINGTON Parish Fete Rectory garden, Mill St 2-5pm Stalls, refreshments, games.

Sat 17-Sun 18 STEWKLEY Gardens open 2-6pm. Cream teas, paintings, plants, bells. £3 for St Michael's restoration fund. 01525 240398.

Sat 17-Sun 25 WOODSTOCK Festival of Arts, Crafts & Music St Mary Magdalene Church weekdays 10.30am-5.30pm; Suns 2-5.30pm.

Sun 18 BARTON HARTSHORNE Country afternoon on Father's Day 2-5pm. Teas, cakes, plants, dogs, in aid of church restoration. 01280 847732.

Wed 21 READING Choral Eucharist sung by Reading Minister Midweek Choir 6.15pm St Mary the Virgin.

Thu 22 OXFORD Christian Concern for One World meeting on Iraq 7.30pm St Nicholas Church Hall, Marston. Details Gill Poole 01865 250688

Thu 22 STOKE POGES Quiet Garden meditation day on prayer Stoke Park Farm, Park Road 10am-12.45 (stay for whole day and bring lunch). 01753 643050.

Fri 23 FINGEST Healing service with laying on of hands and anointing at Holy Communion 10.15am. 01491 571231.

Fri 23-Sun 25 DENHAM St Mary's Millennium Flower Festival: Fri 8pm brass band concert £2.50; Sat 9.30am-7.30pm church open, refreshments 10.30am-5pm, guitar recital 7.30pm; Sun services 10.30am and 6.30pm, teas 3-5pm. 01895 832836 / 237498.

Fri 23-Sun 25 BRADFIELD Flower Festival inspired by Songs of Praise St Andrew's. 0118 974 4928.

Fri 23-Sun 25 WARGRAVE Flower Festival featuring millennium banners and open gardens. Fri 4-8pm; Sat, Sun 2-6pm. 0118 940 3017.

Fri 23-Sun 25 HURLEY St Mary's Millennium Flower Festival Fri 7.30pm organ recital + supper £5; Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 11am-6pm flowers; Sat, Sun 10am-5pm refreshments, 2-5pm open gardens, 2-6pm open studio; Sat 7.30 for 8pm open-air concert £15; Sun 6.30pm Songs of Praise with Bishop Dominic. 01628 821023.

Fri 23-Thu 29 CHALFONT ST PETER Feast of St Peter Flower Festival 'Tempus fugit': Fri 8pm concert; Sat 10.30am-4.30pm stalls, activities; Sat 7.30pm Memphis Jazz Band tickets £8 01494 874287; Sun 10am Festival Eucharist, 6.30pm Songs of Praise; Thu 29th 8pm Millennium Thanksgiving Service. 01494 874911.

Sat 24 DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP Summer Music with students of the Royal Academy of Music 7.30pm St Mary the Virgin. 01296 630279/ 631365.

Sat 24 BUCKNELL Organ recital 7.30pm St Peter's Church. Tickets £5 inc wine and cheese 01869 247028 / 252351.

Sat 24 BOURNE END St Nicholas Church Riverside Fair 12-4.30pm boat rides, stalls, cakes, plants River Cottage off Ferry Lane. 01628 530181.

Sat 24 CHALVEY St Peter's Summer Fete 2pm stalls, teas.

Sat 24 GT ROLLRIGHT Harsichord recital 7.30pm St Andrew's. Tickets £10 inc buffet supper 01608 737135/ 730758/737359.

Sat 24 READING GSS Chapter Centenary St Giles 11.30am High Mass; 3.30pm Guild Office and Benediction 0118 959 8102.

Sat 24-Sun 25 TAPLOW Flower Festival to celebrate millennium St Nicolas Sat 10am-8pm; Sun 12-8pm. Refreshments. 01628 665616.

Sat 24-Mon 26 COOKHAM DEAN Church Millennium Flower Festival: 10am-7pm. Refreshments, plants, cakes. Sat 7.30pm Celebration of British Music & Humour tickets £6; Sun 9.30am Family Service, 6.30pm Evensong. 01628 478248.

Sun 25 NEWTON LONGVILLE Gardens open 2-6pm. Teas, plants, flower festival in church £2.50, children free, in aid of St Faith's Restoration Appeal. Details 01908 375794.

Sun 25 OLD LINSLADE Strawberry and cream teas from 3pm St Mary's Church. Details 01525 377326.

Tue 27 SOULDERN Mothers' Union Deanery Quiet Evening Souldern Church 7.30pm. 01869 253730.

Fri 30 BUCKLAND Inaugural recital of rebuilt organ. Tickets £10 (conc. £7) inc. refreshments 01367 870297/300347.

Fri 30 READING Octavian Singers Gounod's Mass of St Cecilia All Saints', Downshire Sq 8pm. Details 0118 957 2000.

Fri 30-Sun 2 READING Local churches' Flower Festival 2000, 'Saints Near and Far' All Saints', Downshire Sq. Fri, Sat 10am-5pm (choral concert 8pm Fri); Sun 12-5pm. Refreshments, stalls church hall. 0118 959 4871.

Fri 30-Sun 2 COTTISFORD Millennium celebrations: 'Fanfare of Flowers' festival St Mary's; Sun grand fete, Songs of Praise 7pm. 01280 847991.

Fri 30-Sun 2 HAWRIDGE St Mary's Patronal Festival. Sat concert Hawridge & Cholesbury School 7pm tickets £9 inc refreshments; Sat pm and Sun 10.30am-5.30pm Flower Festival. 01494 758332.

Fri 30-Sun 2 LEWKNOR St Margaret's Festival Fri 10am-3pm, 4-8pm flowers; Sat 10am-7pm flowers, 7.30pm concert; Sun festival eucharist 10.30am preacher Canon David Winter, flowers 11.30am-8pm. 01844 351715.

JULY

Sat 1 EASTHAMPSTEAD St Michael's Church and School Fete 1pm school field. Strawberries, flight simulator, bouncy castle, stalls. 01344 453607.

Sat 1 TIDMARSH Bach 250th anniversary violin & harpsicord concert St Laurence 7.30pm. 0118 942 2580.

Sat 1-Sun 2 EARLEY St Peter's Festival of Arts and Crafts Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 11am-4pm. Stalls, displays, flowers, music. 0118 966 3401.

Sat 1-Sun 2 WOOTTON-BY-WOODSTOCK Gardens open Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 11.30am-5.30pm. Songs of Praise St Mary's 6pm Sun. Refreshments, plants. 01993 813803.

Sun 2 OLD LINSLADE Strawberry and cream teas from 3pm St Mary's. 01525 377326.

Mon 3 OXFORD Council of Christians and Jews 7.30pm AGM; 8pm Bishop Richard: Some Jewish Views of Christianity St Andrew's, Linton Rd. 01865 761630.

Sat 8 HIGH WYCOMBE Summer Fayre St Mary & St George Church 2pm. Details 01494 471545.

Sat 8 WESTON TURVILLE Concert for Children's Society. Parish Church 7.30pm. Tickets £6 children £3. 01296 615033.

Sat 8-Sun 9 GRANBOROUGH St John the Baptist Flower Festival, tower open, refreshments, 11am-7pm (service 11am-12 Sun). 01296 670202.

Wed 12 FLACKWELL HEATH Early music Longside Consort in concert Christ Church 7.30pm. Tickets and details 01628 522795.

the Door

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Prayer diary JUNE

Come now and dwell with us Lord Christ Jesus: hear our prayer and be with us always. And when you come in your glory: Make us to be one with you and to share the life of your kingdom.

The Oxford Diocesan Prayer Diary is edited by Graham Canning

Please cut this section and use it to pray for the needs of the Diocese.

Let us pray to God our Father for:

Thursday 1st ASCENSION DAY Mursley Deanery as it continues to wrestle with pastoral reorganisation. For the deanery mission enabler - Matt Kruczek. For the area dean – Norman Cotton; synod lay chairman – Winifred Jones.

Friday 2nd Cheddington with Mentmore and Marsworth: clergy - Roger Hale. Great Brickhill with Bow Brickhill and Little Brickhill: clergy – Stephen Toze. Ivinghoe with Pitstone and Slapton: clergy – Anne Ballard.

Saturday 3rd Linslade, Whaddon: clergy - Colin Mattock, John Hadjioannou: licensed lay minister – Russell Stannard. Stewkley with Soulbury and Drayton Parslow, Linslade St.Mary: clergy – Norman Cotton, Peter Lymbery; licensed lay minister – John Hibbard.

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 4th All who work in the car industry and allied trades, especially those whose jobs are threatened. For garages and mechanics who service our cars and provide us with petrol. For traffic wardens. For care and courtesy in driving.

Monday 5th Mursley: with Swanbourne and Little Horwood: clergy – John Kinchin Smith. Newton Longville with Stoke Hammond and Whaddon, Soulbury All Saints, Drayton Parslow: clergy – David Gregg, Brian Saunders.

Tuesday 6th Wing with Grove: clergy – John Russell Wingrave with Rowsham, Aston Abbotts and Cublington: clergy – Bob Willmott, Siv Tunnicliffe.

Wednesday 7th All members of the diocesan synod and those who will represent us in the forthcoming elections; for the members of the standing committee and bishop's council.

Thursday 8th The legal officers of our Diocese: chancellor – Peter Boydell; joint registrars – Frank Robson, John Rees; for diocesan and archdeaconry surrogates.

Friday 9th The members of the diocesan advisory committee for the care of churches: chairman – Timothy Raison; secretary – Mary Saunders.

Saturday 10th All our parishes currently involved in pastoral re-organisation and for churchwardens, especially those responsible for the worship and work of their churches during an interregnum.

DAY OF PENTECOST (WHIT SUNDAY)

Sunday 11th Millennium celebrations of thanksgiving in all our churches, and for ecumenical services in Aylesbury and Oxfordshire at Blenheim Palace, and area celebrations in Berkshire.

Monday 12th BARNABAS THE APOSTLE The evangelisation of our churches; for all who have responded to the recent consultation, and that through it God's work may prosper and his name be glorified.

Tuesday 13th Vale of White Horse Deanery. For God's wisdom in the best use of their deanery development grant to extend youth work; and that discussion of proposals for pastoral reorganisation, to be published this month, will be forward looking and constructive. For their area dean – Andrew Bailey; non stipendiary minister – Elizabeth Tyndall; synod lay chairman – Jeff Greenhalgh.

Wednesday 14th Ashbury Compton Beauchamp and Longcot with Fernham: clergy – Ken Weaver; licensed lay minister – Rodney Elton. Uffington, Shellingford, Woolstone and Baulking: clergy – John Gawne-Cain, Jim Payne.

Thursday 15th Gainfield, Buckland, Littleworth,Pusey: Cherbury, Charney Bassett, Hinton Waldrist, Longworth, Lyford: clergy – Roy Woodhams, Tony Lynn.

Friday 16th Faringdon with Little Coxwell: clergy – Andrew Bailey, Michael Starr. Great Coxwell with Buscott, Coleshill and Eaton Hastings: clergy – Ian Beckwith.

Saturday 17th Shrivenham with Watchfield and Bourton: clergy – Timothy Rawdon – Mogg. Stanford-in-the-Vale with Goosey and Hatford: clergy – Michael Wenham; licensed lay minister – Jill Smith.

TRINITY SUNDAY

Sunday 18th Father's Day – for all fathers, especially those whose work is hard and takes them away from their children. For the early Fathers of our Church: for their spiritual insights, teaching and humility. For all who father us in positions of authority, in our churches and in the community.

Monday 19th Witney Deanery. For a growing sense of mission as a gentle witness to God's glory in our communities, and that the deanery may grow closer in a shared ministry. For the area dean – Cameron Butland; synod lay chairman – Philip Rogers.

Tuesday 20th Bampton with Clanfield: Bampton Proper, Clanfield, Banpton Aston, Shifford, Lew: clergy – David Lloyd, Lindsay Adam; licensed lay minisers – Pat Smith, Arthur Pont. Burford with Fulbrook, Taynton, Astall with Swinbrook and Widford: clergy – Richard Coombs, Tom Farrell; licensed lay minister – Walter Maddocks.

Wednesday 21st Carterton: clergy – Roger Billings; licensed lay minister – Ann Gray. Cogges and South Leigh: clergy – Stephen Bessent; licensed lay ministers – David Page, Nicholas Pike, David Smith, Richard Young.

Thursday 22nd CORPUS CHRISTI (Day of thanksgiving for Holy Communion)
The Church of God throughout the world – the Body of Christ. For all the Churches of the Diocese of Oxford, Kimberley & Kuruman.

Friday 23rd Ducklington: clergy – Bob Edy; licensed lay ministers – David Adams, Judith Levermore. Lower Windrush: Standlake, Stanton Harcourt, Northmoor, Yelford and Swithun: clergy – David Murray; licensed lay ministers – Ian Blair, Lynda Blair, Renaldo Marslin.

Saturday 24th THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST Minster Lovell and Brize Norton: clergy – Adrian Gabb-Jones. Shill Valley and Broadshire: Alvescot, Black Bourton, Broadwell, Broughton Poggs with Filkins, Holwell, Kelmscott, Kencot, Langford Grafton and Radcot, Little Farringdon, Shilton, Westwell: clergy – Ron Lloyd, Christopher Rawson, Neville Usher-Wilson.

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 25th Those who work to maintain law and order in our towns and villages, especially in Oxford, Milton Keynes and in the Thames Valley. For our local policemen and women, and those who sit on juries and work in magistrates courts: for probation officers and social workers.

Monday 26th Witney Team Ministry: Witney St Mary, Witney Holy Trinity, Hailey, Curbridge: clergy – Cameron Butland, Tim Edge, Will Adam, John Cook, Lindsay Collins, Claire Titcomb, Brian Ford; licensed lay ministers – David Claremont, Geoffrey Morgan.

Tuesday 27th Our honorary assistant bishops – Kenneth Cragg, Stephen Verney, Ronald Gordon, Paul Burrough, John Bone, Keith Arnold, Henry Richmond, Peter Nott.

Wednesday 28th Retired clergy and those still active in leading worship in our churches. For retired clergy officers – Roland Meredith (Oxford): Nigel Saunders (Berks); for area representatives (Bucks).

Thursday 29th PETER AND PAUL APOSTLES All those to be ordained in Petertide (see also page 7) and for their future work in our parish churches, in sector ministeries and secular employment. For our continuing ministerial education adviser – Diane Clutterbuck.

Friday 30th All who provide care and support for our clergy and their spouses; for our pastoral care adviser – Beau Stevenson.

The Prayer Diary is for everyone

Those close to the centre of the Diocese may be more appreciative of the Diocesan Prayer Diary than those who are further afield who may feel that it is too impersonal. However, I am sure that everyone is pleased to know that their church and deanery is prayed for once a year!

The Diary also includes prayers for what is going on in deaneries and for those working hard at Church House on our behalf. Members of Boards and Councils of the Synod are also prayed for on a regular basis. But, I can hear someone say: what about those working just as hard in secular employment who also need our prayers? Not only doctors and nurses and teachers, but those who, in more ordinary jobs, build up our common life and are indispensable to our national economy?

Starting this month and with the help of the Revd Hugh Lee, our Work and Economic Life Missioner, we aim to make the Diary more user friendly. It will also remind those who lead intercessions on Sunday worship about those in secular employment.

In his letter to the church in Corinth St Paul says he writes as a fool, as he records what he has suffered for the Gospel, and he adds: 'apart from these external things is the responsibility that weighs on me every day. My anxious concern for all the Churches'. At the end of his letters he invariably shows his appreciation by naming those people who shared his ministry (Chapter 16 of Romans is full of them) – people on whom he depended under God, to build the Church. Our prayers too, will reflect how much we also care for those who do the same today.

Graham Canning

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Some 'non-nursing' homes can cope with less serious conditions. Some are dual-registered. Do you require the reassurance of qualified nursing care available round the clock?

Personal Details
Any disabilities? Special needs? Perhaps some chronic conditions? Allergies/aversions? Any problem with speaking, reading, writing, English? People from foreign countries can feel especially isolated. Maybe there is a home with others of the same ethnic origin or visits can be arranged from Church or Community groups.

Individual Preferences
Home or away? Many people have the dream to retire to the seaside or somewhere with a slower, more countrified lifestyle. This kind of move needs more research and more effort from everybody. Remember, too, that resorts experienced for a fortnight every year may be less idyllic in midwinter or high summer. If you later become less mobile, then you may well wish that you should have stayed nearer the family.
Do you prefer to keep your own doctor? If this is of primary importance, you should look for a home within his/her practice area. An established relationship with your own GP can be a comfort if health problems should develop. Near to shops, park, pub, social club? On bus route? If you can keep up contacts in the outside world, the transition can be almost seamless. Food. At set times or flexible? Possibility to make your own tea, snacks? Fixed rising/bedtimes or flexible? Single-sex or mixed? Like to help with chores?
How to be addressed? Mr/Mrs/first name? If you dislike a particular form of address, make your wishes known from the start. Private room, with your own things around you or happy to share?
Special interests? Playing chess, birdwatching, photography, knitting, patchwork. Shared interests with other residents can make home life most enjoyable.
Special talents? Play the piano? Do conjuring tricks? These talents can be accommodated and welcomed. Maybe too, you have an interesting and inspiring history. This is the perfect time and place to work on the memoirs.

Family Preferences
Handy for family visits? If children, grandchildren and friends can just 'drop in', it is obviously nicer than formal visits. On bus/train route/with parking? Is there somewhere to stay nearby? If they've chosen to retire to the countryside, is there a hotel, guest-house or caravan site nearby for your visits?

Take Time
What is vitally important is time. Many people are forced into making decisions at the last minute which can only reduce the choice of care homes with vacancies. So try to think months ahead of the situation rather than weeks.

FAST FACTS
- Most residential and nursing homes in the UK are independent
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Advertisement Feature

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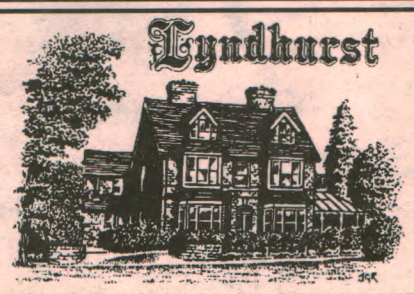

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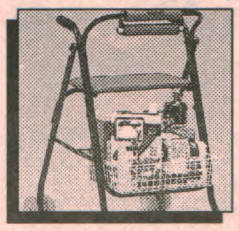

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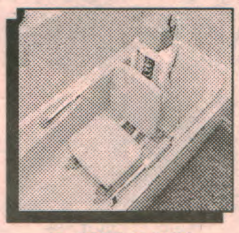

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Weekend Saver (Friday to Sunday inclusive)	£35		
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CHRISTIAN ARTISTS FLOCK TO GLASTONBURY

Advertisement Feature

Hearts on Fire - Glastonbury's Christian arts festival - is back this year and promises to be bigger and better than ever.

A selection of high calibre artists are to appear at the event, set to take place in the Abbey grounds from 14-16 July. the main line-up includes Cliff Richard, Rick Wakerman, Graham Kendrick, Noel Tredinnick with the All Souls Orchestra, Paul Field and Dave Bilbrough.

This one will be one of Sir Cliff's few public singing appearances during the next 12 months, which have been declared a sabbatical year. He has said: "To be celebrating 2000 years since the time of Jesus is special in itself, to do so at a place with such significant links to the earliest believers in this country is all the more exciting."

Cliff launched the first such Christian festival at a marquee in the town in 1993. Gaining popularity and momentum, Hearts on Fire became a registered charity and also a company three years later.

Festival Director Rick Hillard and his wife Helen have lived in and around Glastonbury for much of their married life. Their current family home overlooks the original Holy Thorn tree, said to have sprouted from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea.

With a team of artists, the couple plan to go into education centres on the first day of Hearts on Fire - reaching youngsters with the gospel message. "More than 20 local schools have already said 'yes' to this," reports Rick Hillard.

He is currently looking for funding so children can learn more about their Christian heritage. Anyone offering sponsorship should call 01458 834473.

This is a part of Somerset steeped in history. Legend says Glastonbury Abbey occupies the site of England's first Christian church, where Joseph's son was Bishop. It is therefore a particularly important spot where Jesus Christ should be celebrated in the Millennium year. Hearts on Fire provides the ideal opportunity to do this.

Information leaflets are available from the Abbey Entrance, local Tourist Information Centres and Clarks Village. Booking by post only to: Hearts on Fire 2000, PO Box 79, Hatfield AL9 7ZW. Call the Helpline on 01454 319447.

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Bracing up for YB2000 adventure

YELLOW BRACES, the annual Diocesan youth camp, promises to be better than ever for the millennium year. From the 7 to 9 July up to 75 young people between the ages of 11 and 16 will gather at Hill End residential centre at Farmoor near Oxford for a YB2000 weekend of games, craft, worship and adventure.

'Adventure Plus' have been asked to lead activities such as archery, canoeing and climbing. They are a professional Christian outdoor activity organisation based in the Diocese who provide qualified and expert instructors.

This year's theme is what it means to follow Jesus in the new millennium. Youth workers, Tim Vinall and Yvonne Morris from St Matthew's Oxford, will head an investigation into the greatness of God and why more and more people are getting fired up about Him 'even if they think church is boring'. Richard Vicary and others from the Eternity Youth Group will lead the worship.

The weekend cost, including food and activities, is £35 (reduced rates for two or more family members). Those who come must be in school years 7 - 11. There are only 76 places so ring Andrew Gear now on 01865 208253.

Photo Frank Blackwell

Pictured **Yellow Braces 1997**

Mark the millennium in Taizé

SO SUCCESSFUL was last year's Diocesan pilgrimage to Taizé for young adults that Bishop Dominic Walker will be leading another pilgrimage there this year. He is particularly interested in helping young people to explore issues around prayer and what it means to live the Christian life as a young person in Britain today. Bishop Dominic will be assisted by Richard Hancock and Sheila Nunn both of whom know Taizé well. Richard actually lived in the community for a time.

The pilgrims will leave on Saturday 19 August arriving in Taizé the next morning. They will be back on Monday 28 August.

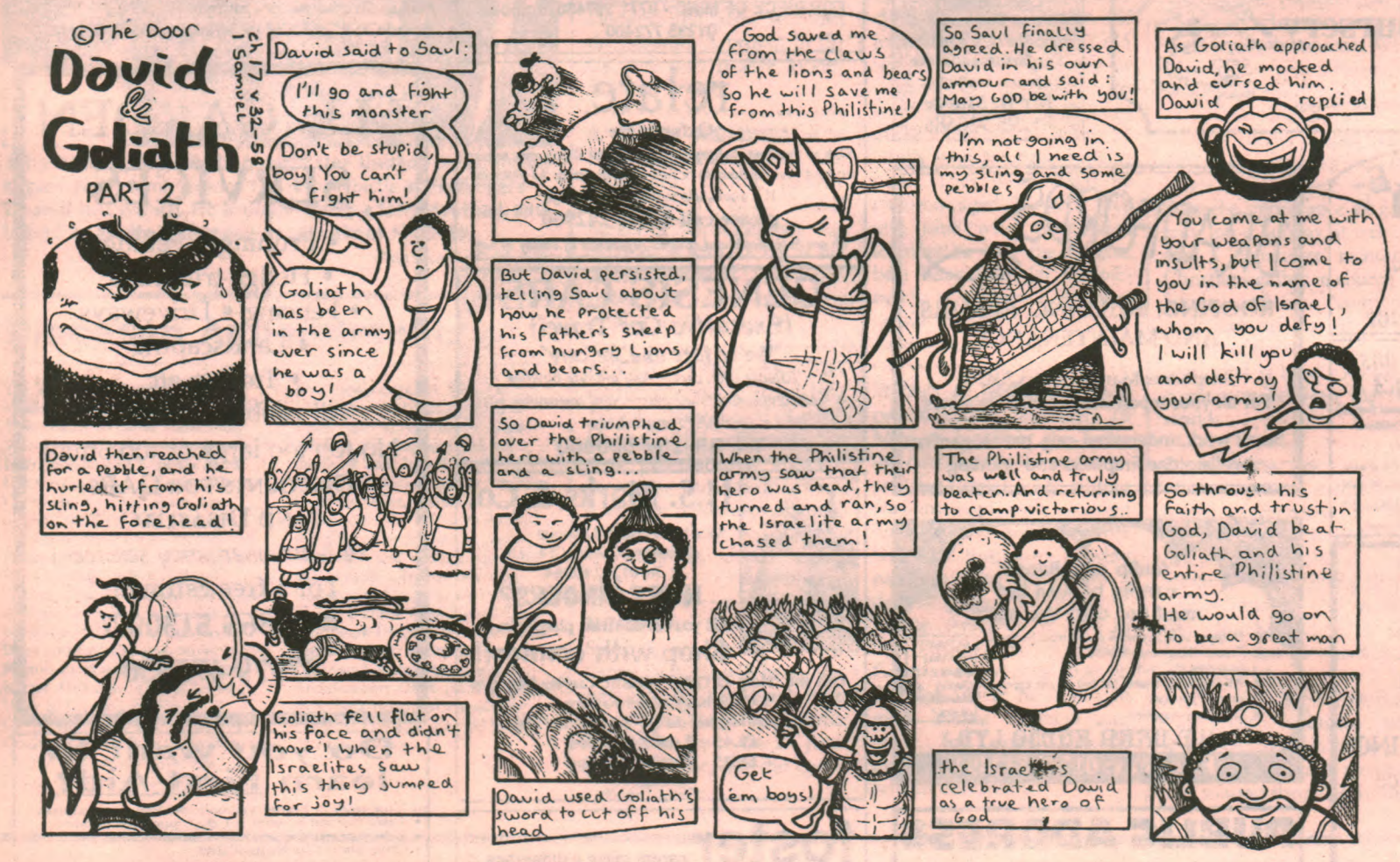
'Taize was an important part of my spiritual journey and encouraged me to step into the unknown with the knowledge that God has a plan for my life', said one of last year's young pilgrims.

The cost is £165 inclusive but some bursaries are available. Ring Andrew Gear on 01865 208253.

Taizé website **www.taize.fr**

Celebrating Together on 16 July

The Bishop of Oxford invites all children and their adult friends and families to High Wycombe on 16 July for Celebrating Together. There will be music, drama, storytelling, puppets and a mega picnic. Ring Jenny Hyson on 01865 208255 for the details.



Cartoon by Daniel Collins

Summer crumble

by cookery writer Ann Way

When our children were young, we spent summer holidays in my parents' second home by a remote loch in the Highlands of Scotland. The cottage was called the Sheiling which meant 'shepherd's house'. It was an idyllic place – no electricity, just calor gas, and our water was pumped from the burn that ran down the hillside. The grass was mowed regularly by the sheep, deer and rabbits but fortunately they left the gooseberries, raspberries and blackcurrants for us to harvest. One of our favourite 'easy' puddings was a fruit crumble that became a star feature of that lovely place.

You will need

500gm / 1 lb mixed summer fruit (e.g. gooseberries, blackcurrants, raspberries, strawberries)
1 1/2 heaped teaspoons caster sugar
150ml / 1/4 pint water
1 level teaspoon cornflour mixed with a little water taken from the 150ml / 1/4 pint

crumble topping

75gm / 3oz margarine
200 gm / 8oz SR flour
75gm / 3oz sugar (granulated or demerara)
finely grated zest of lemon

Method

Top and tail gooseberries and destalk blackcurrants. Cut up strawberries and pick over raspberries. Simmer in a largish saucepan the gooseberries and blackcurrants in water until they soften. Add the rest of the fruit and the cornflour and bring to the boil and cook gently until juices thicken. Pour fruit mixture into an ovenproof dish.

For the crumble topping melt the margarine over a low heat. Stir in the sugar and the flour with grated lemon rind and mix until it resembles bread crumbs. Sprinkle this evenly on top of the fruit mixture and cook in a medium oven for about 30 minutes until top is golden and crisp.

Serve with custard or cream.

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Arts

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Books for Pentecost

reviewed by Ann Knight

'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all' (2 Corinthians 13, 14). How easily these words trip off the tongue with familiarity! In John 14:15-17 Jesus promises the Holy Spirit: 'I will ask the Father, and He will give you another counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth.' This promise came true at the Jewish feast of Pentecost six weeks after Jesus returned to heaven. The Spirit came to the disciples, and 2,000 years on his Counsellor is still being sent to those who love the Lord. Below are a selection of books about the Holy Spirit which I hope will inspire you to take a fresh look at the effect of the Holy Spirit in your life and the life of the Church this Pentecost.

The Wild Spirit Russ Parker, Triangle, £6.99

A challenging book for the individual wanting to know more of the Holy Spirit, with prayers and questions for reflection. Russ Parker has written for *Anglican Renewal* magazine for many years. In a time when so many of us love to embark on adventure and holiday in unknown places this book will invite you to go on a journey with God's Spirit guiding you in the adventure of life, encouraging us to let go of inhibitions and trust in God. How will his Spirit shape our lives?

Come Holy Spirit A practical handbook for church leaders today David Pytches, Hodder and Stoughton £5.99

This is a well researched handbook in which the author speaks from his own experiences of the way the Spirit works through the Church, encouraging us to see the Spirit at work and covering the different spiritual gifts which are backed up by biblical background and understanding.

Journey of the Spirit Mary Batchelor, Lion £7.99

A beautiful book for a personal reflection on the Christian faith, with each chapter containing Bible signposts to help direct the reader's thoughts on life's journey. It includes space for your own personal thoughts. There is information about Christian belief with insights into the experiences of others exploring the different facets of Christianity.

His Spirit is with Us Chris Neal, BRF £5.99

An excellent study and easy to read, this biblically based book looks at the work and power of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testament. Six weekly themes are set out for daily use, with pauses for thought, reflection, prayer and further reading, concluding each week with material suitable for group study.

Nine O'Clock In The Morning and **The Holy Spirit and You** Dennis and Rita Bennett, Kingsway £6.99

There are two books in one volume. *Nine O'Clock In The Morning* is a story of how the pastor of a 2,500 congregation risked the unity of his church because he became involved with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues, showing God's Spirit is alive now as it was 2,000 years ago at Pentecost. *The Holy Spirit and You* gives guidelines on how the spiritual gifts can be allowed to develop in our personal lives.

Ann Knight attends St Mary's, Thame and helps run the Christian Resource Centre at the church. The books mentioned can be obtained there or at your local bookshop.

The Salutation: four Christian artists combine in Oxford Pentecost exhibition

Detail of Roger Wagner's Ruth and Boaz, set in modern Syria.
Below right: **Nicholas Mynheer's sculpture Woman and Child.**

In response to Thomas Traherne's poem 'The Salutation', four of the country's leading Christian artists are mounting an exhibition of their recent work at St Andrew's church, Linton Road, Oxford, celebrating the joys of God's creation.

This is the first time that the artists – Mark Cazalet, Richard Kenton Webb, Nicholas Mynheer and Roger Wagner – have collaborated in their own exhibition, and the event marks the climax if the church's celebrations of the millennium at Pentecost.

There are fascinating contrasts in the ways in which the artists interpret their chosen theme. Richard Kenton Webb's work is entirely abstract. He contributes a set of six six-foot rectangular panels entitled 'The Time of Preparation', which is complemented by music specially composed by Scottish composer Helen Graham. Visitors to the exhibition can also watch a video of the work being created.

Oxford-based artist Roger Wagner, on the other hand, stands firmly in the figurative tradition following on from his well-known representation of the crucifixion against the background of Didcot power station. He continues to embed biblical scenes in the here and now. His 'Ruth and Boaz' (*detail, left*) is the first part of a triptych, against a contemporary Syrian landscape. The characters are set in a finely observed harvest scene complete with disused oil drums and an old rubber tyre.

Nicholas Mynheer, whose studio is at Horton-cum-Studley, contributes sculptures (his Mother and Child is pictured *right*), among them a delightfully humorous portrayal of Jonah and the whale, in which the prophet is in the process of being swallowed – or perhaps spewed out – by the fish. Humour also figures in some of the work of Mark Cazalet. His 'problem paintings' were done in response to questions raised by his daily Bible readings, and include an appealing study of Balaam's ass, reflecting the dilemma posed by wanting to run away.

In the words of Roger Wagner, there is something below the surface linking these very different exhibits: 'My hope is that people will be led to reflect on what that might be.'

Paula Clifford
Writer on the arts for the Church Times and others journals; licensed lay minister at St Andrew's, Linton Road, Oxford

The Salutation St Andrew's Church, Linton Road, Oxford 6-17 June 10am - 10pm Monday to Saturday; Sunday 11 June 2-10pm. Details church office 01865 311212; www. artexhbition. org.uk

Great army of laymen raised up by God

Most people would not accept the validity of a statement in the Foreword and be sceptical about a prophecy in the Preface to this excellent book. Val Fotherby's husband David is stated to have participated in what are described as some of 'the greatest events in Christianity since the first century'. The prophecy by Dr Charles Price, made more than 50 years ago, was that a great army of laymen would be raised up by God in the last days to bring in the final harvest of his kingdom. After reading this book in record time for me – it is a very good read – I could see what the writers of the Foreword and Preface were getting at.

This book tells the story of the miraculous growth of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International over four decades. The FGBMFI is a fellowship of Christian laymen from all denominations who meet over a meal in a hotel to share with other men, and women, how their Christian faith affects their everyday life at home, in society and at work. The FGBMFI is not a church, but is a supporting arm of the established churches. Its aims include bringing more men into the Church, and bringing about a greater measure of unity among all Christians.

From its founding vision to Demos Shakarian of laymen being awakened throughout the world, the FGBMFI has spread through the USA, South America, UK, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the former communist countries. Most recently, it has reached Africa and Central America. There are about 180 groups in the UK and Ireland and over 4,000 throughout the world. From politicians to street beggars, the FGBMFI has had an impact on many thousands of lives at breakfast, lunch and dinner meetings. The book movingly recounts the dramatic testimonies of these men and women. Throughout the world these meetings have witnessed the power of Jesus Christ healing bodies, minds, emotions, spirits, families and businesses. A lesson for us to take on board today is that when we fast and pray we see God move in amazing ways.

Jesus Christ calls us to be fishers of people. If you need inspiration to be such a fisherman/woman then this book is for you. Men and women have been encouraged to form 'fire teams', small groups to go out and give testimony of God's powerful love in their lives and then to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit.

John Hine
Chartered accountant; licensed lay minister, Cherwell Group of Parishes

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Kimberley & Kuruman

A look at our link Diocese

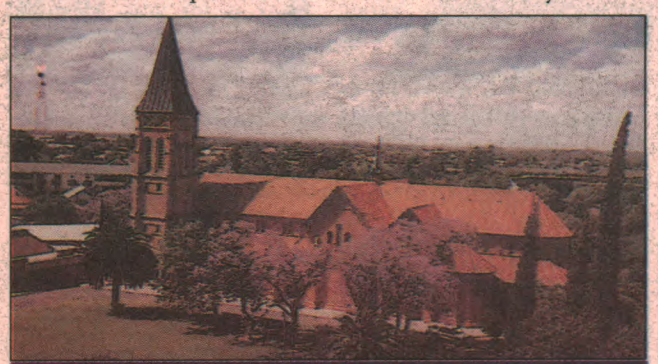
DURING THE SECOND five years of the Oxford Diocese's link with Kimberley and Kuruman, it is hoped that the two cathedrals will come closer together. Yet they could not be more different. Tom Tower provides the gateway from the main road, St Aldate's, into Christ Church, and across the quadrangle lies the college chapel which is also the cathedral. St Cyprian's is also adjoining one of Kimberley's main thoroughfares, Du Toitspan Road, but this time one is drawn to it across a green lawn by the statue of Sister Henrietta Stockdale. A nursing nun, she was the frst matron of Kimberley's new hospital as well as being the person who secured legal recognition for professional nurses.

Whilst Christ Church was established as a cathedral church in 1546, St Cyprian's was consecrated in 1908. It has the largest nave in the country. On the same site are the diocesan and bishop's offices together with welcome and meeting facilities. Again, it reflects different needs and opportunities. Christ Church has a dual role as a cathedral in the centre of a diocese as well as a college chapel. Kimberley is physically at the eastern edge of a diocese one and a half times the area of Britain and also has an important part to play in the centre of a city which has undergone enormous economic and social change since 1994. Both have 'outside' responsibilities: Christ Church is patron to a number of parishes throughout the country, and the staff at St Cyprian's have care of a number of small parishes and outstations especially to the south of the city.

So the resources of and demands on of these two cathedrals are very different. As part of his research, the Very Revd Bob Jeffery, Sub-Dean of Christ Church, will be visiting a number of Anglican cathedrals throughout the world in order to observe the changing roles, responsibilities and staffing of cathedrals. After three months of travelling, his final visit (in early August) will be to Kimberley. As with all of his journey and meetings we pray that he will 'go well'.

Nicholas Molony

IT WAS MEETING K & K's Diocesan Secretary, Canon Ossie Swartz, in Blackbird Leys that led Sarah Miller to spend two years as a lay assistant at St Cyprian's Cathedral, Kimberley in 1996, as part of the Oxford Diocesan educational and training team. She was a parish assistant in Blackbird Leys and project worker at the Porch Drop-in Centre, and had previously taught in High Wycombe. She has recently started working for the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in four dioceses – Chelmsford, Ely, Norwich and St Edmundsbury and Ipswich – while training part-time for the ordained ministry.



Among the jacaranda trees: the cathedral in Kimberley

The Church for a new millennium

We are being encouraged to take initiatives in evangelisation in the new millennium. What does it mean in practice? We start a series in which we look at churches all over the Diocese to see what they are doing

Do we want to grow, spiritually and numerically? This is the first question a church needs to ask if it is going to take the process of evangelisation seriously. Growth involves change, and change is painful. Sights have to be set higher than 'doing what we did last year and hoping for the best'; this takes a long time and patient work.

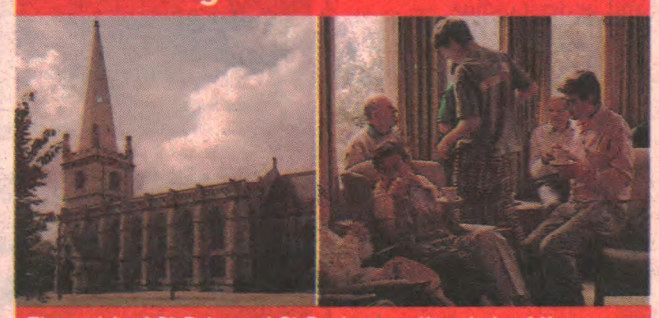
'Mission statement'

One way of facilitating it is to have a parish or PCC awayday *(top right)* and look at where you are, the needs of the community, and your vision for the future. Out of this could come a parish mission statement and a one-, two- or three-year strategy with some targets. These will build on existing structures, groups and activities, but see them as 'stepping stones' to encourage people to become part of the church family, and the church family to engage with the wider community.

Our 'statement of purpose' is: 'The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul exists to Worship God (Worship), Follow his way as shown by Jesus (Discipleship), Make known his love to others (Outreach).' Based on this we have developed 'Task Groups' responsible to the PCC: Worship, Mission and Outreach, Youth, Finance, Building and Maintenance, Pastoral Care. Our priorities for 2000/2001 include:

- Worship: introduce *Common Worship*, train lay people to lead worship;
- Discipleship: set up marriage preparation course, extend parenting course, develop bereavement visiting, identify and train more youth leaders;
- Outreach: building redevelopment, another Alpha course, outreach to 20/30s.

Buckingham Parish Church



The parish of St Peter and St Paul covers the whole of the market town of Buckingham, which is expanding (c.12,000 people) but retains its character and sense of identity. In the town are five schools, the private University of Buckingham and some light industry. There are just under 200 on the church electoral roll and about 400 on the 'family' roll. The main Sunday service is 10am Parish Communion with a Family Service once a month.

Some current initiatives

- Regular social events to bring the church family together and introduce newcomers
- A welcome team, who can double as sidespeople, to help identify and meet newcomers
- Monthly Men's Breakfasts
- Scheme of 'baptism hosts' to make and maintain contact with families
- Lay-led enquirers' groups and Alpha follow-up groups based on Emmaus material

Community needs

We must shape our agendas to reflect community needs; our community will then take us seriously. We have begun to do this through:

- special services for key sections, e.g. business world, schools, sporting groups
- a broadsheet which goes to every house and tries to reflect local issues as well as church activities
- our 'Open Door Project' (see box).

We can make an impact by 'being good news and living the good news' (Robert Warren's words) as a community of people who have a distinctive life, centred on God in worship and prayer, warm and welcoming, and open to new ways of doing things. Our prayer is that this may become true for every church community in our Diocese.

Canon David Meara, Rector

The annual Holiday Club has been growing and now attracts about 250 children aged 14 and under. There are also regular children's and young people's groups, and a midweek Toddler Church.

The Open Door Project

A building full of life, open to the wider community, offering drop-in facilities, peace and a place for meeting and friendship: this is the vision behind the 'Open Door' redevelopment project launched at a parish Open Day at Easter. It involves:

- **Redesign of the west end to include a kitchen, meeting rooms, parish office, quiet room and disabled facilities**
- **Appointment of a project worker to run the office, be a welcoming presence and make links with local people who might use the building**

Not a 'stuffy lot!'

'I was an atheist and couldn't see the point of church. That's why we got married in a Registry Office. We both worked full-time and didn't really know many people in Buckingham, but were encouraged to come to St Peter's and St Paul's by a friend. They weren't anything like the stuffy lot I expected! I used to think people only went to church to get ready to die, but there are lots of young people like us there. There's a real sense of community, too. It's really good at the Family Service ... things are explained in an easy-to-understand way.'

These words of Claire are quoted in one of the broadsheets which go to every house. Claire now helps with the youth group and she and Tom have brought their son for baptism.

Life's a lottery!

Did you know that statistically you are more likely to die between buying a lottery ticket and the draw being made than actually winning the lottery? Makes you think, doesn't it?

From the Buckingham Church web site: http://users.powernet.co.uk/rex/bpc.html. It includes forthcoming events and links with other Christian web sites and with the town site.

by David Winter

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Power Restored

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you' Acts 1:8

Those who are old enough to remember the power cuts of the miners' strike period in the 1970s will probably also remember the amazing sensation of the power being restored. For younger readers, and those with poor memories, these power cuts involved what were called 'phased disconnections' of power supplies, so that you knew that the electricity would go off at, say, six o'clock and come back on at half past nine. But it was still a surprise when the gloomy room was suddenly flooded with light and the dead and silent television screen burst into life. Power had been restored!

Pentecost is all about 'power' – not 'authority' or 'dominion' (senses in which the Bible also talks of 'power'), but the ability to get things done. The Greek word used here by Luke has the same root as our English word 'dynamic'. What was promised to the disciples, who had already been given the 'authority' of Jesus to preach the good news to the whole world (Matthew 24: 18,19), was the means to do it, the energising 'power' of the Holy Sprit.

There's not much doubt that church life, and our witness to the world of the love and grace of Jesus, sometimes seems to be carried on in the dark. We know (very often) what we ought to do, but somehow we lack the inner motivation and energy to do it. Trying to meet those needs from human resources is doomed to failure, because what we are engaged in is a spiritual exercise, and for that spiritual resources are needed. Those resources are in the gift of God and are to be found only in the Holy Spirit.

'You will receive power ...' was a promise spectacularly fillfilled in the apostolic Church, but it is a promise that still holds good for us today.

Canon David Winter, who is retired and living near Oxford, is the Editor of the New Daylight notes of the Bible Reading Fellowship